OUTLOOKS

CANADA'S **GLBT** MAGAZINE

ISSUE 191

CANADA'S GAY
TOP MODEL
TODD JOHNSTON

QUEER ACTIVISM
IN CANADA TODAY

DAN SAVAGE
THE "IT GETS BETTER" PROJECT

THE ART OF
MATHIEU
LACA

CARDIF, WHALES
IN HONOR
OF THE ROYAL WEDDING

Suggested Retail $5.50 Canada/US
05
0 94922 30128 4

SEX IS EASY TO FIND. LOVE ISN'T.

THE DILEMMA: You are a successful professional living a fulfilled life. You are active, dynamic, intelligent, and financially stable. Your friends and family say that you are a catch. Then why is it that sincere love is so hard to find?

THE SOLUTION: A boutique networking agency specializing in personalized matchmaking will save time and energy. Their service is designed for busy, successful professionals who cherish the idea of a loving, faithful relationship once they find the right partner.

THE CLIENTS: Preferred Partners clients value the prospect of meeting like-minded individuals who are also tired of the internet and bar scene. Typically, they are successful professionals living full and active lives who work hard and love to play, too.

THE PROCESS: Personalized matchmaking starts with bringing the right kinds of clients on board. Preferred Partners has a thorough screening process. Their interview is also a chance to discuss your personality traits, lifestyle, attitudes, personal preferences, past experiences and important values. From there, your first match is made! Once you meet each other, you provide detailed feedback, which allows your matchmaker to tailor your next match even further.

THE SUCCESS RATE: Your chances of finding a compatible partner are drastically increased when you discover a way to meet singles who are in a similar head space, in addition to having similar lifestyles and values.

Preferred Partners – Canada's Exclusive Gay Matchmaking Agency

preferred PARTNERS

CALL US TODAY TO SCHEDULE A FREE CONSULTATION

1 866-467-5252

www.preferredpartners.ca

OUTLOOKS CANADA'S GLBT MAGAZINE

Issue 191

lifestyle

8 International News
11 Regional News
15 Democracy Lost Out
18 Canadian Trailblazers - Queer Activism

travel

24 Randall on the Road
25 The Faggots of Cardiff
32 Hang 10 in Tofino

tastes

38 The Gay Gastronome
39 Tastes of Canada
40 Spring Greens

looks

22 Gay Top Model
42 The Style Guys - Quick Looks
43 Outdoor Living
42 Summer Staples
45 The Darker Side of Summer

out-spoken

6 Editor's Notebook
12 Mistress Manners
14 Couch Talk - Update on Cross-dressing
17 Not That Kind of Girl
30 Shavings from My Head

arts & entertainment

36 Fairy Tales Film Festival
37 Dan Savage "It Gets Better"
52 Framed - Mathieu Laca

inside-out

54 Don't You Wish
54 Horoscope
55 Marketplace

ON THE COVER
Todd Johnston
Gay Top Model 004
Photo: Nicholas Jang

A New Canadian Taste Sensation!

Enjoy Pinnacle Ice Cider as an aperitif or with pâtés, fine cheeses and desserts.

LCBO # 94094

Domaine Pinnacle, winner of more than 49 gold medals

"...the best cider in Canada, in my book..."
Rating: 94
Gord Stimmell, Toronto Star

"Rich, luxurious and sweet ... I love this stuff."
Rod Phillips, Ottawa Citizen

"The flavours are expressive and lip-smacking good..."
Vic Harradine, winecurrent.com

DOMAINE
Pinnacle
Cidre de glace - Ice Cider
www.domainepinnacle.com

FOLLOW US

outlooksmagazine.blogspot.com

follow us on twitter

twitter.com/outlooks

facebook.com/group.php?gid=33575716919

Opinions expressed in *OUTLOOKS Magazine* are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the magazine. All contents are copyright and may not be reproduced in part or in whole without written consent. The appearance of an ad in *OUTLOOKS Magazine* does not mean that the magazine endorses the advertiser. The appearance of a model or other photographic subjects does not necessarily indicate their sexuality. *OUTLOOKS* welcomes new contributors. Please contact our editorial department before submitting written material, photographs and artwork. *OUTLOOKS Magazine* does not return unsolicited materials and is not responsible for their loss, damage or other injury. *OUTLOOKS Magazine* is printed and produced in Canada ten times a year.

Send letters to **editor@outlooks.ca**,
or by mail to OUTLOOKS
Box 10069 Riverbend RPO
Calgary, Alberta, T2C 5E2
or by Fax: (403) 228-7735

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities.

Canada

ISSN 1704-7927
National Library of Canada Ottawa

Please Recycle

CANADA'S GLBT MAGAZINE
OUTLOOKS

outlooks.ca

PUBLISHER
Patricia Salib
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Brett Taylor
CREATIVE MARKETING DIRECTOR
Nelson Tomé
DESIGN
Terry Demco
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Jara Solis
ADVERTISING & OTHER INQUIRIES
(416) 792 - 2400
EDITORIAL INQUIRIES
(403) 984 - 9402
editor@outlooks.ca
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Len Mastaler, Randall Shirley, Jason Krell,
Aly Velji, Dale Smith

OUTLOOKS is published by
The Mint Media Group all rights reserved.
348a Queen St W, Toronto, ON, M5V 2A2

THE MINT MEDIA GROUP
PRESIDENT
Patricia Salib
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
Reggie Lanuza
DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING & MARKETING
Nelson Tomé
PROJECT COORDINATOR
Jara Solis

THIS ISSUE
CONTRIBUTERS
Ralph Higgins, Len Mastaler, Mistress Manners,
Kevin Alderson, Ph.D., Dale Smith, Mette Bach, David King,
Nickolas Jang, J. Corbett Holmes, Robert Best, Randall Shirley,
Terry Costa, Josh Lewis, Pacific Sands Resort ,Rob Melnychuck
Jason Krell, Aly Velji, Perry Mah, DJ Mitchell, Mathieu Laca,
Yana K, David Jackson, Barry Piersdorf, Wilkosz + Way

Summer of Prides

Once again Pride Season is upon us...

...but where to go and what to do. So may Prides and with so little time (and money) to be able to attend them all how does one prioritize.

For me, I set out a plan a number of years ago and created somewhat of a "bucket-list" of what I thought were the best Prides to attend. Some based on community... or local culture...others steeped in history... controversy... or diversity issues.

Based on researched information, for someone residing in Canada, the 10 best Prides to attend world-wide would be:

Vancouver July 28-Aug 1: The Pride celebrations in Vancouver are the largest in Western Canada; last year's festivities attracted more than 500,000 participants. The Vancouver Pride Society is in the last year of their 3-year theme of Educate, Liberate, Celebrate. Highlights of the festival, which starts on June 26 with the East Side Pride and culminates on July 31 with the Pride Parade, will include the Davie Street Pride Party on Friday, July 30, and the revels on Sunset Beach after the Parade on Sunday, July 31. (vancouverpride.ca)

Montreal Aug 9 -14: "Share the Pride" is the theme of this year's celebrations, an extravaganza of arts, entertainment , the Tropical Zone (a multi-ethnic, urban and caliente zone) and, the showstopper, the parade on August 15 with an artistic vision of "Our Superheroes". Expect lots of special powers and colourful costumes. (fiertemontrealpride.com)

Ottawa Aug 19 – 28: This year marks the 26th anniversary of Ottawa's colourful festival. Capital Pride 2010 will kick off on August 19 and finish on August 28. Highlights will be the Miss Capital Pride Pageant and the official Ottawa Pride Floating T-Dance, which will cruise along the Ottawa with a 100 per cent proud DJ line-up. (capitalpride.ca)

Toronto June 24 – July 3: Pride Toronto is a not-for-profit organization that produces Pride Week, an annual arts and cultural festival celebrating Toronto's LGBTTIQQ2SA* communities. Attracting over a million visitors each year, Pride Week is one of the City of Toronto's eight signature events, one of the largest arts and cultural festivals in North America, and one of the largest Pride celebrations in the world. Pride Week features a three-day street festival with eight stages of live music, performance and DJs, and additional weeklong arts and cultural activities including literary, film, dance, and other multi-disciplinary events. (pridetoronto.com)

Sao Paulo June 23 – 27: More than three million revellers gathered in Sao Paulo last year, making it the world's largest gay pride event. And this year, their 15th anniversary will be even bigger still. The parade is always the headline event. It starts at the Museum of Modern Art of Sao Paulo at noon and gets to Praça Rooselvelt, in Downtown Sao Paulo, late that night. The colourful floats, carnival-style costumes of the participants and pumping music make this an experience you won't want to miss. (gaypridebrazil.org)

San Francisco June 25 – 26: San Francisco's Gay Pride Festival is the largest pride celebration in the United States and this year it's marking its 41st birthday with a great theme - "In Pride... We Trust." This year the event will feature over 300 exhibitors, more than 200 parade contingents, and thousands upon thousands of party-goers descending on Market Street to join the party. (sfpride.org)

New York June 18 – 26: This year's theme is "Proud and Powerful" and the official NYC LGBT Pride Rally kicks off proceedings on June 18. Between that and the Pride March on June 26, there's a fun-packed schedule of events such as Rapture on the River, PrideFest, and Dance on Pier. World-class celebrations against the iconic New York City skyline ensure this event is an unmissable affair. (nycpride.org)

Amsterdam Aug 4 – 11: In early August, world-renowned party town Amsterdam will amp it up with club-circuit parties, street parties, and the raucous Canal Parade, which starts at the Prinsengracht (Prince's Canal), sails along the Amstel river, passes the famous Magere Brug (Skinny Bridge), and turns near the Oosterdok (the docks). It's a riot of colour and music and Carnivalesque fun.(amsterdamgaypride.nl)

London, England June 18 – July 2: Pride London was founded in 2004. Each year it has grown and grown and you can now expect a million revellers attending the event as participants or spectators. In London, Festival Fortnight runs for s full two weeks and like San Francisco, this event is marking 41 years on the frontline of gay pride. LGBT London will find its voice - along with the rest of this marvelously multicultural city - with film, art, theatre, comedy, walking bar tours and a barnstorming parade that will snake along some of the most historic streets of this world city. (pridelondon.org)

Berlin June 18 – 19th: Berlin is one of the most gay-friendly cities in Europe, and has a week of wonderful events. The Lesbian and Gay Street Fair takes place on June 13 and 14 in the gay district around Nollendorfplatz in Schöneberg. The Berlin Pride Parade dominates June 19. A Gay Night at the Zoo (June 17) and the CSD on the Spree (June 18) when six rainbow ships cruise through Berlin will round out this year's party. (csd-berlin.de)

Like I said at the beginning of these notes, so many Prides and so little time to see them all, one must be selective. I hope that this gives you a good cross section of our homegrown world-renowned Pride events, and some of the other great ones across North America, South America, and Europe.

As for me you might ask, well I am going to go a bit further a field this year and take in the sights and sounds, and oh yes – the heat, of Tel Aviv Pride in Israel. O

Wherever you are... celebrate with Pride!

Thanks the way I see it anyway.

B.

© Peter Bregg
WANT TO KNOW HOW
TO TURN THE TIDE
OF HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA?
ASK HER
The Stephen Lewis Foundation supports community-based organizations working to turn the tide of AIDS in Africa.
Text AFRICA to 75353 to learn more about the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the projects we support.
the Stephen Lewis FOUNDATION
stephenlewisfoundation.org
Scan to learn more

Queer Sport

Anton Hysen, a Swedish soccer player, came out of the closet in an interview with Offside magazine. The 20-year-old Hysen, who is the son of Glenn Hysen, a former British soccer star, stated that he should be judged on his skill at the sport and that his sexuality was irrelevant. He also urged other gay players to come out, and offered his support if they choose to do so.

The Rugby League of Great Britain has begun an official campaign to fight homophobia and ensure that all fans and players, regardless of sexual orientation, are welcome. Other sports organizations such as the Football Association, Lawn Tennis Association, England and Wales Cricket Board and the Olympics organizing committee have signed a charter for gay rights.

Ben Cohen, rugby star and long-time straight ally, is heading The Ben Cohen Acceptance Tour, which will travel through the United States this summer hosting dinners and other events to promote equality and acceptance in sport.

Gay Rights Awards

Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe will receive the "hero" award given out annually by the Trevor Project. Radcliffe said he was honoured to be selected for the award and that his work doing public service announcements and other activities to support and promote the helpline were among the most important of his life. The awards ceremony will be held in June.

The media awards of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) were held in March and among the honourees was Latin music star Ricky Martin. Martin received the Vito Russo award, which is presented to a gay person in the entertainment community who has worked to fight homophobia. Martin came out publicly in 2010 and spoke of his journey to self-acceptance on the Oprah Winfrey Show, which was also recognized by GLAAD. Other recipients of GLAAD awards included Anderson Cooper, hip hop artist and business tycoon Russell Simmons, and TV shows 30 Rock and True Blood.

Thousands Leave Finnish Church in Protest Over Anti-Gay Campaign

The Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland is the national church of the country. Members pay to support the church, which in turn subsidizes many organizations. When it was learned that one such group was a Christian group claiming to cure homosexuality and urging people to not give in to the sin of homosexuality, the response was rapid and angry. Over 3,000 people signed an online petition condemning the group and stating that they were leaving the church in protest.

The Worm in Apple's iPhone?

An application -- available through iTunes and promoted by Exodus International, a Christian group which believes homosexuality can be "cured" by the use of conversion therapy -- has been withdrawn after over 150,000 people signed a petition calling for the application to be taken off. Conversion or reparative therapy -- the basis of Exodus International's claim to be able to help LGBT people change their orientation -- has been repudiated for many years by the American Psychological Association and every other major mental health care organization. Dr. Remafedi, whose work was cited in the application, joined in with those requesting the removal of the application, saying that the Christian group has misrepresented his work.

Chinese Crackdown

Life for the LGBT citizens in China continues to be challenging. In April, sixty people in a gay bar in Shanghai were arrested for allegedly watching pornographic shows, although the details of the complaint against the bar have not been released. Thirty-two women were arrested for writing erotica for an online site in March. Officials stated that over 80,000 stories were published on the website. Homosexuality was a criminal activity in China until 1997 and was considered a mental illness until 2001.

United Nations Declaration Condemns Acts Against LGBT Persons

Eighty-four countries -- members of the United Nations Human Rights Council -- signed a statement condemning acts of violence, criminal sanctions and other violations against people on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identification. The statement also recognizes positive advances occurring among member nations of the United Nations. The increase in the number of signatory nations – 84 compared to 54 for a similar statement in 2006 – is seen as an encouraging sign by human rights groups; although there continues to be much work to be done.

News in the USA

A gay sailor who received notice of his discharge from the military under the provision of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) has been told that he can stay in the Navy. Derek Morado, who was outed by a fellow sailor in 2009, is reported to be surprised but very happy at the decision. A three-person panel, convened by the Navy, unanimously found that since DADT was essentially gone and was in the process of being permanently done away with, there was no reason to remove the sailor from active service.

As for the process of repealing DADT, at a meeting of the House Armed Services Committee, the four generals, who are the heads of the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy, all reported that the repeal process and the adjustment of the men and women in the armed forces was proceeding smoothly. In fact, several generals reported that there had been no problems and there was considerably less resistance to the repeal of DADT than had been anticipated. The Republican chair of the committee, Buck McKeon, who has been vocal in his opposition to the repeal, was reported as being quite surprised by this response.

Andrew Cuomo, governor of New York State, has continued with his support for full marriage equality for same-sex couples in the Empire state. Cuomo had campaigned on the issue of same-sex marriage during the election, which saw him become the governor last November. He has stated that the issue of marriage equality is one which is personal to him since it affects people who are long-time friends.

In Memoriam: Elizabeth Taylor

The passing of a Hollywood star often makes headlines in show business papers and news shows; but the death of legendary actress Elizabeth Taylor was felt far beyond the boundaries of the entertainment industry. Ms. Taylor used her celebrity to focus awareness on the plight of those living with HIV/AIDS in the 1980s, at a time when very few public figures were mentioning the disease, let along trying to raise funds and awareness to those stricken with the "gay plague." For Elizabeth Taylor, the fight was not just about fairness and equality, it was personal. Her former co-star and dear friend Rock Hudson succumbed to AIDS in 1985. Taylor was a tireless supporter of HIV/AIDS organizations, raising millions of dollars over the years, and was the founder of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmfAR).

Gay Rights Get Green Light in Ireland

After years and years of virtually no movement towards granting equality to the queer citizens of the Emerald Island, there are signs of rapid progress in Ireland. A recent YouTube video, created by an anti-homophobia group (www.BelongTo.org), has become an Internet success with hundreds of thousands of viewers. A report in February stated that the majority of Irish citizens – 61 percent – supported the idea of gay marriage, with the strongest support coming from young people and women. Then, in April, the first civil partnership ceremonies took place. The law permitting the partnerships actually took effect in January; but couples had to give three months' notice of their intention to be legally joined together. Queer rights activists are still pushing for full marriage equality. The most encouraging news, perhaps, is that David Norris, an openly gay senator, has launched his campaign for the presidency of Ireland and is considered by many to be the front runner to replace Mary McAleese, the current president.

The Pride of Toronto

PROUD FM

103.9

UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU'VE HEARD...

(((•LISTEN ONLINE•)))

www.proudfm.com

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE 2011- 2012 SEASON

buddies
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

12 ALEXANDER STREET
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
BOX OFFICE: 416-975-8555
BUDDIESINBADTIMES.COM

For its 2011/12 Season, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre offers a collection of some of the world's major dramatists including Jean Genet, Martin Crimp, Caryl Churchill, Larry Kramer and Margaret Atwood.

The season kicks off with Artistic Director Brendan Healy's production of Jean Genet's The Maids, in a translation by Martin Crimp. Featuring Stratford veterans Diane D'Aquila, Ron Kennell and Maria Ricossa, this queer reclaiming of Genet's masterpiece will delve deeply into the play's abject sexuality and its ruthless position against social subjection.

The Maids is followed by the presentation of another queer classic: The Normal Heart by Larry Kramer, produced by Studio 180 Theatre. This depiction of the struggle to get government officials to take action against the HIV/AIDS epidemic could not feel more salient at a time when Toronto's current mayor has made several remarks about cutting funding to HIV/AIDS service organizations.

Buddies' commitment to offering theatre that challenges the norm is broadened by Modern Times Stage Company's production of Hallaj, a theatrical account of the martyrdom of beloved 10th century Sufi mystic Mansur e-Hallaj who bravely stood up against the religious orthodoxy of his time to promote a message of liberty and compassion.

Next, two of Canada's leading female writers radically revises two texts from the Western canon. With Nightwood Theatre's production of The Penelopiad, Margaret Atwood offers a feminist retelling of Homer's Odyssey. With free as injuns, Native Earth Performing Arts' new Artistic Director Tara Beagan re-appropriates Eugene O'Neill's classic play Desire Under the Elms to write a powerful interrogation of Canadian racial hierarchy.

As always, the Rhubarb Festival returns for its 33rd edition, with Festival Director Laura Nanni at the helm for her second season. Caryl Churchill meets Céline Dion in Bliss, a darkly surrealistic dissection of celebrity culture and its alienating effects by a rising star of the Québecois stage, Olivier Choinière.

Sky Gilbert's Cabaret Company returns with Dancing Queen, a collaboration with the infamous Keith Cole that tells the story of an inter-generational love triangle through dance and theatre.

The season caps off with seminal New York City feminist duo Split Britches (Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver) performing on Buddies' stage for the first time in their thirty-year history. Split Britches bring us a limited run of their latest piece Lost Lounge.

Illustration: Perry Mah

Mistress Manners

Dear Mistress Manners,

My boyfriend broke up with me and moved to a different city. It was devastating, of course, but what made it worse was that I didn't see it coming. When he and I first got together, I spent the first few months pinching myself because I didn't believe that someone as good as he could exist. I thought it was too good to be true, and it turns out it was. At first, he just told me that he wasn't happy living in this city (and, to be fair, he had moved here only a year earlier and hadn't made very many friends yet). He asked me to move with him, but I didn't want to. And we talked about doing the long distance thing, but it seemed kind of naïve. I was willing to consider it because I still thought he was the best boyfriend I'd had and I couldn't imagine his not being in my life. I'm glad we decided not to do long distance, because it turns out he was harbouring all kinds of resentment and anger that I didn't even know about until after we broke up. He became a different person and stopped calling me. And when I called him, he wasn't even nice to me. All this, after we spent six really happy months together. I think I still want to be friends. His birthday is coming up. We haven't spoken at all since he moved. I want to make up, but I'm torn. So what do I do, Mistress Manners? Send him a birthday card? I don't even have his address.

I don't want to walk away with bad feelings and I don't want him to, either. I want to wish him a happy birthday; but with all these unresolved feelings, it seems hard to say anything without instigating a process, and that's not exactly birthday greeting card material.

-Torn

Dear Torn,

Whether you should send him birthday wishes or not depends very much on whether you're able to be friends with him yet. There is no need to rush the process, even if you're feeling the pressure to acknowledge his birthday. He's going to have another one next year. It's more important that you look inside yourself and really examine whether you're ready to offer your friendship right now. Be honest about this.

Mistress Manners has noticed that, particularly in LGBTQ communities, people feel an extraordinary amount of pressure to be friends with exes right away. But the cost of rushing things can be too great. It takes time to process feelings, and if you try to force it, you inevitably end up in uncomfortable waters -- processing on birthdays, as you suggest.

Think of your brain as a file folder and this boyfriend as being in his own file marked special. The love that you feel for him is still there and you can access those feelings at all times. But, are

you ready to have him be an active part of your life? Are you ready to support him in his life? Are you ready to hear about his move? the new city? a new boyfriend? Are you ready to share sincerely and honestly about yourself? It sounds like you reserve deep feelings for him, feelings you might not have for anyone else. Sometimes, we need distance from exes in order to be friends in the long run. Friendship is, after all, a very different relationship. It's better to allow yourself time to heal.

If you're thinking about him and wishing him well, why not get him a card and write what you want to say. Send all your love. Then tuck the card in a drawer and give it to him in a few months, when you talk and make peace with the past. Mistress Manners knows that you inevitably will. O

Please contact Mistress Manners with your questions at:
mistressmanners@gmail.com

SEX IS EASY TO FIND. LOVE ISN'T.

THE DILEMMA: You are a successful professional living a fulfilled life. You are active, dynamic, intelligent, and financially stable. Your friends and family say that you are a catch. Then why is it that sincere love is so hard to find?

THE SOLUTION: A boutique networking agency specializing in personalized matchmaking will save time and energy. Their service is designed for busy, successful professionals who cherish the idea of a loving, faithful relationship once they find the right partner.

THE CLIENTS: Preferred Partners clients value the prospect of meeting like-minded individuals who are also tired of the internet and bar scene. Typically, they are successful professionals living full and active lives who work hard and love to play, too.

THE PROCESS: Personalized matchmaking starts with bringing the right kinds of clients on board. Preferred Partners has a thorough screening process. Their interview is also a chance to discuss your personality traits, lifestyle, attitudes, personal preferences, past experiences and important values. From there, your first match is made! Once you meet each other, you provide detailed feedback, which allows your matchmaker to tailor your next match even further.

THE SUCCESS RATE: Your chances of finding a compatible partner are drastically increased when you discover a way to meet singles who are in a similar head space, in addition to having similar lifestyles and values.

Preferred Partners – Canada's Exclusive Gay Matchmaking Agency

preferred PARTNERS

CALL US TODAY TO SCHEDULE A FREE CONSULTATION

1 866-467-5252

www.preferredpartners.ca

~ KEVIN ALDERSON, Ph.D., R. Psych.

Couch Talk –
The Musings of a psychologist

Part V: Update on Crossdressers

I wonder sometimes about the costume choices people make on Halloween night. Looking around at others in the bar, I always notice a significant number of men dressed as women. I am not talking about the drag queens or the trans people for whom opposite-gender dress is expected. Instead, I am referring to the average gay, bisexual, or straight guy who dresses as a woman for the night. Why that costume and not another one?

More fascinating are the straight men who repeatedly dress as women, often referred to as "transvestites" by those who view this as deviant. Herein, I will refer to these individuals simply as crossdressers. Men have crossdressed since the beginning of recorded history, albeit for differing reasons perhaps than today.

Imagine back when you were just entering puberty -- maybe a little before that time. There you are, sitting at home, and little Johnny fires up for action. What are you going to do – slap it? Well, some men get the idea in their heads that it would be exciting to try on some women's clothing and masturbate. In cases where the behaviour persists over time, a fetish is born. Virtually anything that becomes associated with a man's sexuality can become a fetish (hard cock seems like a better choice). Fetishes are very rare in women.

How common is crossdressing for fetishistic purposes? Well, a study from Sweden established that about 2.8 percent of men dressed at least once during sexual arousal. Over time, a fetish can diminish in importance, and this is generally true with crossdressers. But something else has become associated with it besides sexual arousal: self-soothing -- so simply dressing up as a woman reduces tension. In turn, some will want to bring back the excitement, and one way of doing this is to go out in public crossdressed, aroused, wondering if one will pass successfully.

Once crossdressing has become established, it is not uncommon for crossdressers to get rid of their female clothing at some point in an attempt to stop this behaviour. However, particularly during times of high stress, the drive to crossdress becomes overpowering and a new wardrobe appears (not by magic, unless you think you are Samantha Stevens).

Would you suspect a crossdresser if you met him when he wasn't donned in female attire? Likely not. Most demonstrate masculine or hyper-masculine gender roles and overall presentation in most areas of their lives. They work the oil rigs, they are truck drivers, steam engineers -- and the list goes on. They are often rugged men who perhaps work so hard at being masculine that crossdressing allows the sensitive side of femininity to emerge; thereby creating the great escape from the confines of a rigid gender role. This strikes me as similar to what I have seen and read about regarding leathermen – the master is often someone who compensates for feeling controlled in his life, while the slave or submissive is someone who has control over others and enjoys relinquishing this through leather role play scripts.

Some crossdressers who continue to sexually fantasize themselves as women while masturbating may end up becoming women. Magic once again? Not exactly; but researchers believe that some men become transsexual through these sexual fantasies. The controversial term "autogynephilia" refers to men who sexually fantasize themselves as women. Most crossdressers will find their desires to be intermittent and situationally based; but for some, the behaviour may progress to wanting to live in the female role most, if not all, the time (these men are called "transgenderists") and for those who continually feed autogynephilic fantasies, they may someday qualify for gender reassignment surgery.

Most men who crossdress do so without consequences. Women crossdress all the time, and no one bats an eye. Why do we want to focus on men who do so? It seems that psychology loves to pick on people who enjoy anything other than vanilla heterosexual sex. At one time, even oral sex got a bad rap (and a bad taste in your mouth).

Where some crossdressers get into trouble is when their mates find out. "I MARRIED A MAN, NOT A WOMAN!" screams the wife from where the clothes were once safely hidden. Most do not seriously consider divorce or separation; but their families usually encourage it. Most women develop greater acceptance of crossdressing over time. At least little Johnny is not out cheating. O

Couch Talk references can be found at www.outlooks.ca

Kevin Alderson can be contacted by confidential email at **alderson@ucalgary.ca**, or by confidential voice mail at 403-605-5234.

Democracy Lost Out

And that should worry every Canadian

Canadians went to the polls, and rewarded contempt of Parliament with a majority government. They rewarded a dysfunctional Parliament with one that is going to be far more polarized than ever. They rewarded base populist appeal that didn't have to explain the logic or fiscal considerations of platform promises over consultation and prudence. And they rewarded placeholder candidates with no connection to their ridings, who couldn't show up for debates or even speak to their local media (or who took vacations to Las Vegas during the campaign), with seats strictly on the strength of their leader's appeal.

Yes, Canada – populism won, and democracy lost out.

What did we get? Two parties whose strength lies in their popular leaders, with almost no bench strength on either side. And this cannot be underestimated, because what is supposed to be a system about 308 MPs who represent our interests are subsumed by the cult of personality with their leaders.

With the Conservatives, they have managed to keep their fractious MPs in line with an iron fist and muzzles. Will this change under a majority? Perhaps, but when something is working for you, why change it?

With the NDP, discipline hasn't always been their strong suit, and now they have fifty-some new MPs who were little more than names on websites -- four of them were McGill students. Not only that, but they no longer have a position of leverage or any power to use as a means of keeping these new MPs in line.

Adding to that, the dynamic of the NDP has now shifted in a way that we don't know how it will play out. Because the NDP are now the voice of Quebec in Parliament, we don't know how it'll shape their discourse – especially considering that Layton had a disjointed message when it came to the Quebec question, telling Quebecers that they should have asymmetric provincial autonomy, while laying out a highly centralized platform that was largely encroaching upon areas of provincial jurisdiction. As well, many analysts have said that the Bloc provided a kind of relief valve for separatist feelings in the province by giving them a sense that their interests were being taken care of in Ottawa. Will the NDP provide that same sense? Or, will they lead to a rise of more separatist feelings provincially? That is a question that remains to be seen.

What else did we get? We got an outright assault on minority rights -- Women, aboriginals, gays and lesbians, trans people, immigrants and refugees. We're all going to see any advancements we were hoping for stalled, if not rolled back. Our issues won't be a "priority," while the government instead "focuses on the economy" rather than dealing with fundamental issues of equality.

We got a government that believes that ideology trumps evidence. This means bad policy across the board – a "tough-on-crime" system that won't actually do anything about crime rates other than put more people in jail for longer, making them better criminals rather than keeping them out of a life of crime or rehabilitating them. It means that climate change will barely be given a nod, while the government spends the next four years "consulting" on regulations with stakeholders and the Americans. It means that things like assisted human reproduction will continue to be subjected to the views of the religious right, rather than science. It means that HIV and AIDS programmes will be judged not on their effectiveness, but what looks good (while funding is slowly diffused toward ineffective projects).

We got a government that is parochial when it comes to foreign affairs, having lost our place of prestige in the world. We are no longer a voice of reason at the table, but a booster for failed American policies, or at best, saboteurs when it comes to agreements like climate change. We also have an official opposition, which is not only parochial when it comes to issues of foreign affairs, but is protectionist on top of that. We no longer have a credible voice on the world stage from either side of the aisle.

What else will come under assault? Abortion will certainly come up. Harper said he wouldn't touch it, but he has a majority now, and if one of his backbenchers should happen to table a private members' bill that will try to criminalize abortion through the backdoor (such as "rights of the unborn"), will Harper make a serious move to block it? Maybe. Maybe not. Will they try to open up same-sex marriage? Again, it would have to be a backbench initiative; but nothing is off the table in a majority situation.

Above all, our democratic institutions will continue to face assault and be undermined by a government, which has shown them contempt in the past. And that should worry every Canadian.

0

The Mint Media Group Acquires Outlooks Magazine

Photo: Yana K

Left to Right: Nelson Tomé , Derek Dotto, Patricia Salib, Oren Williamson, Jara Solis, Brett Taylor, Michael Pihach, Gordon Bowness, Reggie Lanuza, Jenny Watson, Nicolas Tallarico

OUTLOOKS CANADA'S GLBT MAGAZINE + mint media GROUP

The Mint Media Group, the nation's premier LGBT marketing and publishing company, announced on April 19, 2011 the acquisition of assets from Outlooks magazine Inc. Joining the company's other publication, In Toronto magazine, this step expands the brand's coverage and presence in the market, making the Mint Media Group one of the largest LGBT magazine publishing companies in Canada.

Outlooks magazine has a proud history of providing positive, thoughtful editorial and information to the LGBT community in Canada. The publication first appeared in March 1997 as a lifestyle magazine directed primarily at a gay audience. Since that time, the publication has grown to become a household name in the LGBT community. The publication will operate with Brett Taylor remaining as editor in chief.

Patricia Salib, president of the Mint Media Group explains, "With Brett Taylor on board, we are looking forward to delivering the same promise of quality content that speaks volumes to its readers. Brett Taylor's years of experience will be a strong addition to our team."

Brett Taylor, Outlooks editor in chief is excited for the new transition underway; he explains "Outlooks has had a strong influence on the LGBT community since it published its first issue in March of 1997. This was a natural progression to accelerate Outlooks to the next level. The Mint Media group has the resources and experience to uncover its full potential."

The Mint Media Group was founded in 2007 by Patricia Salib and has played a vital role in defining the LGBT market. The company's diverse expertise and years launching businesses serving the LGBT community has made it a leader in the industry. In 2010, the Mint Media Group successfully launched In Toronto Magazine; providing readers with compelling news information and entertainment. IN Toronto's distinct multi-platform presence in print, online and video segments has gained incessant number of followers.

Recently ranked as Canada's second most consumed media, the acquisition of Outlooks was a definite compliment to both brands' vision "We are truly excited and expect to see great results as In Toronto and Outlooks continue to grow. The publications will focus on creating new experiences for media consumers, armed with bold content in fashion, life and arts." says Patricia Salib.

The Mint Media Group plans to re-launch Outlooks later this summer with a new design and a new luxury focus. Patricia Salib is optimistic of the changes, "With the new creative vision, our goal is to enhance Outlooks' distinct brand identity and strengthen its position in the community." Mint Media group is confident that this will ignite a new wave of readers, as well as re-position Outlooks as a leader in fashion and lifestyle.

The company will operate both publications independently, confirming that In Toronto magazine and Outlooks will have separate identities and editorial visions. "Publishing two of Canada's leading magazines will help us explore our creative visions, engage new readers, and attract new businesses to the LGBT community. The synergy of Outlooks and In Toronto will help create a distinct readership that will compliment both publications."

In Toronto and Outlooks launched the new initiative at a gala function on May 5th in Toronto. To see more pictures from the event, turn to the Toronto "Out & About" section in this issue. *page 52*

Not That Kind of Girl

~ METTE BACH

DANISH SISTERS

Three years ago, my friend, Billeh, called me up, excited to announce that his friend, Cathleen, was moving back to Vancouver.

"I have to introduce you," he said. "You guys have so much in common. She's also Danish and queer and a writer."

"Um, okay," I said, kind of thinking we'd probably add each others' names to social networking sites, talk about having coffee "sometime" and that would be that.

As a rule, I tend to avoid people who are too much like I am. One of my dearest friends once pointed out to me that the vast majority of humanity prefers to spend time with people who don't question them -- those who are very similar in terms of politics, religious beliefs, lifestyle and social class. In direct response to this phenomenon, he started organizing parties around difference. He'd invite people who overtly disagreed with each other, people firmly planted in the right wing and the left. He'd invite social activists and police officers. He'd invite believers and atheists. He kept the conversations going and the drinks flowing. I understood his point very clearly.

It's so important to embrace people who will challenge us. It's worth so much to have friends with whom you can disagree. The biggest advantage of living in a country as diverse as Canada is this exposure to difference.

I was in no rush to get to know this Cathleen person. We politely connected online; but it wasn't until eight months later, when we were both asked to read at the same event, that we met face to face. That night, worlds that had been kept apart my whole life – my experience of growing up Danish in Canada and my experience of being queer – came together as Cathleen entertained me with Danish phrases at a very gay event.

We skipped coffee and became instant BFFs. We started to think of ourselves as sisters from different misters. And it wasn't long before we were having epic phone calls, comparing everything from our childhoods that stood out as strange. For the first time in my life, I met a Canadian who knew what it was like to be Danish, and a Dane who knew what it was like to be Canadian. Before long, we figured out that we could have a regular lunch together because we worked close to each other on Saturday afternoons. Our friendship was so quick because we skipped all kinds of getting-to-know-you moments and there was so much about each other that we already knew. For the first time in my life, I understood why (to borrow from West Side Story) people stick to their own kind. For the first time, I had someone who shared cultural shorthand and it was a thrill.

At one of our first lunches, Cathleen asked about my job. "How much are they paying you?"

I thought it was pretty forward, but I answered. Then, Cathleen, big sister that she is, started organizing my life. "Listen, I can hook you up with something better. We have to look out for each other, right?"

And with that, she basically launched a better career for me. Then she asked about dating in Vancouver, a subject I knew plenty about. She'd been away, teaching English up north and also in Korea, and she hadn't dated much in Vancouver. So, (to borrow a Polish idiom) my friendship with Cathleen was like one hand washing another.

We celebrated our new connection by throwing a Danish-themed party for Billeh, thanking him for introducing us by introducing him to herring, fried Camembert cheese and salty licorice.

Talking about our upbringings meant talking about our parents, and the more Cathleen and I did that, the more we realized that we should set them up. They seemed to have so much in common. Most notably, they shared the quality of not wanting to hang around with other Danes. Cathleen's parents moved to Vancouver in the late sixties and mine immigrated in the early eighties. They are Canadian in their hearts and language and tastes by now, and they don't like to spend too much time dwelling on the ways of the old country. Still, though. Cathleen and I rationalized that you can never have too many friends.

Besides, what could be more fun than celebrating Danish holidays with my mom and both of her parents? What could be better than not having to explain our strange customs? We had some trepidation in playing matchmakers for people in their sixties and seventies. But what was the worst that could happen? I'd introduced my mom to most of my girlfriends and sometimes girlfriend's families, and she had been gracious enough.

This was something else altogether, though. From the second our parents met, there was warmth between them, a familiarity that echoed Cathleen's and my friendship. We ate dinner – all Danish food, of course. Afterwards, Cathleen and I collected the dishes and stayed in the kitchen to wash them and check in about how it was going. We weren't even missed.

"We could leave now and go catch a movie," Cathleen said. From the other room, we heard our parents laughing and talking.

"This is fantastic," I said, "Did you catch that moment when your parents subtly invited my mom to join them on one of their bus trips?"

"I know!" Cathleen giggled, "So cute!"

Before long, I got calls from my mom about bus trips and Danish lunches with Cathleen's parents. She told me it was instant family and she was so grateful. I got to call up Cathleen and say, "Did you hear? They're hanging out independently of us now."

"Wow," she said, "This delights me even more than I thought it would."

"Me too."

And with that I understood that queers are not the only people who celebrate chosen families.

From that day on, Cathleen and I started talking about how our parents will probably move in together one day instead of moving into old age homes. Cathleen said it could be just like the Golden Girls. I agreed. That's how we ended up referring to our parents as The Golden Danes. O

~ BRYEN DUNN

Canadian Trailblazers

Queer Activism In Canada

For many years, queers have been standing up for their rights to be accepted as equal citizens in our country. Some of the more recent memorable moments happened over the past 30 some years, such as the Toronto bathhouse busts, the Sex Garage raids in Montreal, and the multiple court proceedings initiated by Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium in Vancouver. Today, queer activism is as meaningful as ever, according to both the current crew and the past pioneers from these three cities.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau actually was one of the earlier crusaders for gay rights, when, in 1969, he introduced the Criminal Law Amendment Act, which among other things decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults. One of his most famous quotes of his entire career was, "There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation," also adding, "What's done in private between adults doesn't concern the criminal code." That same year, south of the border, patrons at the Stonewall Inn in New York City were basically stating the same fact, and the cross-border ripple effects began.

American born Michael Hendricks admits, "I never considered myself a gay activist. I didn't believe in Gay Liberation. I was a socialist, although my husband René and I were never permitted to join "avant garde" movements like the Communist or Troskyist parties. However, I did my political work where and when I could during the counter culture in the 1970s, after relocating to Canada to avoid the Vietnam draft in 1968." It wasn't until several years later that his outlook on gay rights changed.

"On New Year's Eve 1989-90, our friends told us that we were the only persons at our annual year-end party who were not HIV+. We had naïvely assumed that, when one of our gang died of AIDS in 1986, the rest had been spared. We decided to become gay activists and joined the newly formed chapter of ACT UP Montréal in January, 1990. We would later learn that we could apply the same principles as the Black Liberation movement used in the USA: We brought to this group of well-intentioned but unprepared activists our knowledge of street demos and organizing. ACT UP gave us a new kind of activism -- much more fun than we had known before. It was in-your-face activism that claimed the motto, 'We're here, we're queer, get used to it.' "

"Along the way, ACT UP picked up a mandate to confront the police about brutality and discrimination against gays. By 1991, several ACT UP members, including myself, began documenting what appeared to be a series of gay murders in Montréal. As the number of cadavers increased, we organized demos under the name of Lesbians and Gays against Violence (LGV). Curiously, after months of confrontational meetings and court proceedings, gay murders in Montreal became resolvable (not the product of our lifestyles) and, simultaneously, the number of murders decreased considerably."

Fellow Montreal educator Bill Ryan is a Professor of Social Work at McGill University, and also an active participant in the gay movement, spearheading organizations such as RÉZO, Canadian Safe Spaces, and the Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition. He's also acclaimed recognition and awards for his research work around gender,

health, and sexuality.

"I was at the forefront of developing services for questioning youth, aging elders, and homophobic counselling," he proudly boasts.

Janine Fuller has worked as Manager at Vancouver's Little Sister's Bookstore for nearly 20 years, and has been directly involved in much of the historical censorship battles, which led her to co-author "Restricted Entry, Censorship On Trial." The book won the 1995 Editors' Choice Lambda Literary Award, and, in 1998, the store won the Award for the Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada. In 2004, Fuller also received an honourary doctorate degree in Laws for her leading role in her success against censorship.

As for whether she considers herself a queer activist, "Yes, by guilt of association," she laughs. She states that her initial desires were inspired by great individuals such as the late Jane Rule. "All it took was one seizure by Canada Customs, and it became a lifetime commitment to understanding what free speech means," she continues. Fuller also recollects other galvanizing moments in Vancouver such as the triple bombing of Little Sister's, and, more recently, the public rallies and marches after the death of Aaron Webster, as well as Hold Hands for Justice.

"Testifying before the Supreme Court of Canada in the court case (Little Sister's vs. Canada Customs) has stood as a high point and has afforded me the opportunity to meet many amazing individuals committed to free speech throughout North America. Hearing such great individuals stand up in defence of free speech and queer writing was very rewarding," she points out fondly. She feels positive about current day issues as well, "There are many local groups doing good work these days, such as organizations like Out in Schools, Trikone, YouthCo, the Rainbow Refugee Committee, and T-Bodies Productions, just to name a few."

Xtra Toronto reporter Andrea Houston considers herself an advocacy/activist journalist, dedicated to human rights and active political engagement through journalism and social media. Before beginning her post at Xtra that allows her to research queer-related issues, she was writing about crime, politics, climate change, education, health, entertainment and technology in mainstream publications.

"Activism is a part of what I do, and journalism is the vehicle. I have always been a politically engaged, insatiably curious and gossipy person, which is a perfect combination for a journalist to use as a means to push for positive social change," she points out. Her determination and investigative approach brought light to the recent Gay-Straight-Alliance controversy.

"In January, I broke the news that the Halton Catholic District School Board had banned GSAs. My investigation revealed that GSAs are actually banned at all Catholic schools in Ontario -- a decree by the bishops who run the Catholic schools. That story, and the now infamous Nazi quote from the Halton board chair, has launched a national movement," she indicates. The board's chair, Alice Anne LeMay, told Xtra that the board "doesn't allow Nazi groups either. GSAs are banned because they are not within the teachings of the Catholic Church." Catholic school students are now mobilizing to start GSAs in their schools and are standing up to boards which are infringing on their rights.

For the past several years, Nick Mulé has been actively involved in several prominent organizations, such as Amnesty International LGBT Action Circle, the Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition (CRHC), the Rainbow Health Network (RHN), and the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario (CLGRO). He is currently the founder and chairperson of a new provincial LGBT group called Queer Ontario, Associate Professor at the School of Social Work at York University, and a psychotherapist in private practice, serving gender and sexually diverse populations in Toronto.

"I am definitely a queer activist, as I am passionately driven to ensure that our society includes the LGBT community as part of its diversity, in the hopes that it will lessen the oppression and marginalization we've experienced and continue to experience. My definition of 'queer' is a specified one, tied to a liberationist perspective in which we fight to create an existence that we define for ourselves, and not one that fits neatly into a heterosexist model. Queer Ontario has repeatedly put forth highly progressive and even radical positions that go beyond the mainstream LGBT communities. I have a need to work with people who have a queer liberation sensibility. And, by the very nature of our work, we venture into areas and take stances that many other 'middle of the road' LGBT groups steer away from," he surmises.

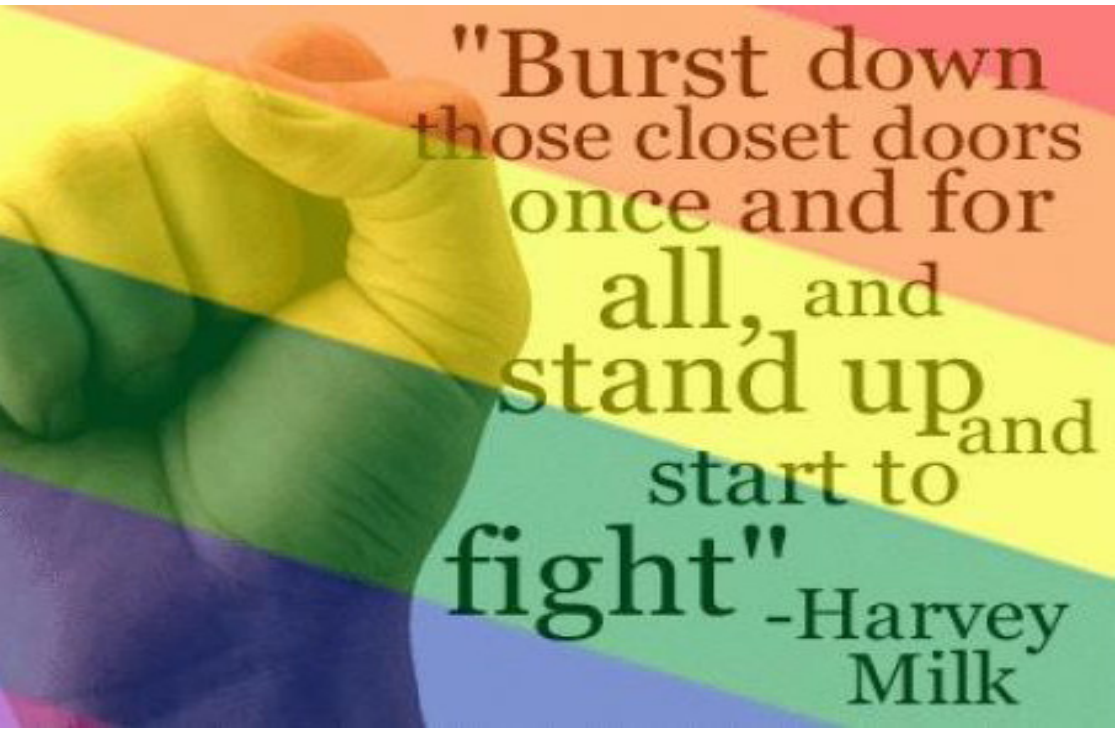
So, for as much that has been accomplished by these individuals, there's still a plethora of concerns that need to be addressed. In Ryan's main highlights for gay rights, he states, "The fact that we have gained legal recognition as an official minority in Canada -- that changed everything as far as I am concerned." Today, he cites homophobia in schools and trans-rights as two of the biggest issues at the forefront of requiring recognition here in Canada. Globally, he believes equality between men and women in developing countries opens the door to LGBT rights. "Free women moderate homophobia by having access to contraception, allowing for a sexuality that is not exclusively linked to reproduction, and opening the door to LGBT sexualities and acceptance," he perceives,

Mulé states, "The 'presence of voice' is one of my highlights of the gay rights movement, meaning that we are part of a generation that is decidedly out of the closet and vocal about it. We have managed to organize, mobilize and activate. As such, we have brought our voices forward, forcing society to recognize us after being silenced in times past," he concludes. He hopes the future will bring decriminalization of queers globally and HIV+ people in Canada, the separation of church and state, and the health and well-being of all individuals, in areas such as depression, suicide, substance use, cancer rates, body image, and mental health concerns.

Houston resonates, "LGBT youth bullying remains a top focus for me, as does trans-rights, both on a provincial and federal level. They need to be included in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code. Politicians need to have the courage to stand up for human rights instead of fearing the wrath of social conservative voters. Finally, we all need to pay close attention to Africa, and, more specifically, Uganda, which is about to pass a law that would effectively make being gay punishable by death. The world needs to see that this is a crime against humanity. HIV and AIDS are still wreaking havoc to families and wiping out generations. Canada needs to step in, and Canadians need to start caring."

Fuller believes, "Grassroots activism doesn't always come behind a banner or a name. Many people are viscerally affected by events, and then become involved." She cites violence against queers and other marginalized people, securing freedom of speech for all, and ensuring the safety and protection of our youth around the world as her three top concerns of action.

Hendricks claims that the Matticine and the Daughters of Belitis were really significant for a kid born in 1941 and a teenager during the 50s in America. As well, Stonewall, ACT UP, and his historical battles winning the first gay marriage recognition in Quebec, were significant memories that come to mind. As for his thoughts on current day problems, he says "I go to meetings of Radical Queers, and one of their constant issues is that there is no organizing being done either locally or nationally. If anyone is working for our future, it is groups of lesbian and gay parents trying to get their kids a 'discrimination-free' education in the public schools," he points out. He would like to see alternative family lifestyles introduced into the education system at the same time as multiculturalism.



More recently, we have seen social media develop as a tool for activism. Houston declares, "It has changed activism profoundly. Issues that were discussed only among activists, or in the media, are now debated widely, and policymakers are paying attention. A major piece of all my work is done using Facebook and Twitter to spread the word and get people talking."

She continues, "People can talk directly to politicians and journalists, ask questions and engage in debate. Through my tweets and Facebook updates, readers continue to send me tips and documents that would never have surfaced without social media. Twitter has been called the 'zeitgeist' and for good reason. It has helped change laws, topple dictators, trigger political movements, and inspire a tidal wave of youth to pay attention to politics."

As for the future, Houston proclaims, "Social media is public. Everything is on the record. It is the single best tool for any activist or journalist."

Hendricks contemplates, "We have fought for years to gain agency in our own lives and control over our bodies. There remains one big challenge: personal control for adults over the end of our lives, aka euthanasia and 'assisted suicide.' We aren't dead yet; however, I doubt we will have time to get to the Supreme Court again in this lifetime; but you never know," he smirks.

As with many of today's new pioneers, Houston surmises, "I have deep, deep respect for all the activists that came before me." Likewise, respect has to be given to those who continue to dedicate their time and effort to ensuring that queer rights remain at the forefront. Every day is history in the making! O

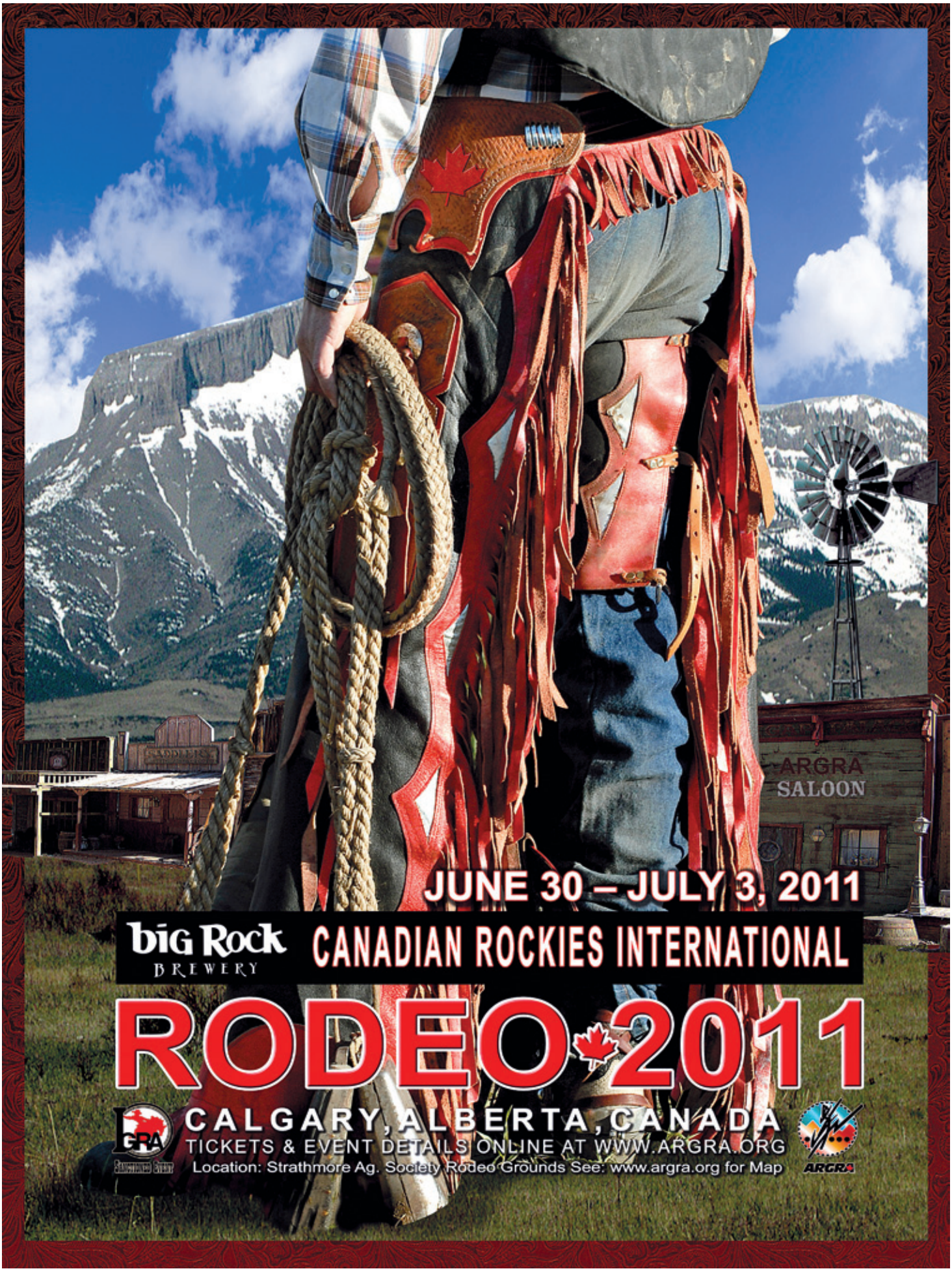

ARGRA
SALOON
JUNE 30 – JULY 3, 2011
big Rock
BREWERY
CANADIAN ROCKIES INTERNATIONAL
RODEO 2011
CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA
TICKETS & EVENT DETAILS ONLINE AT WWW.ARGRA.ORG
Location: Strathmore Ag. Society Rodeo Grounds See: www.argra.org for Map
ARGRA

Photo: Nicholas Jang www.double-take2.ca

The Results Are In...

And the winner of Gay Top Model 004 is... Todd

~ TERRY COSTA

On April 23,2011, at the incredible River Rock Theatre (River Rock Casino Resort), in a lavish theatrical spectacle, the winner of the fourth season of Gay Top Model, GAY TOP MODEL 004, was announced. As the three-month competition came to a close, the Nelson, BC's charismatic young man was awarded the project title. Congratulations, Todd Johnston.

"I was not expecting it," says the wholesome man with a shy grin, "A flood of emotions took over my body and I was not sure which ones would surface. It was overwhelming. But above all, it was a blast."

Johnston comes from a family of Scottish, Irish, Swedish and Norwegian blood and is a newcomer to Vancouver from BC's interior. This competition was his major foray into life in the big city. Spending a weekend at the River Rock Casino Resort was a major part of the competition, of which Todd adds, "Living and working in these great facilities made us feel like stars. We were definitely treated like celebrities. Amidst the whirlwind of the competition, it was nice to have such comfort of an amazing room, gym, hot tub, and pool that we see only in the movies. A dream come true," concluded the charming winner.

As the winner of Gay Top Model, Todd receives an opportunity to escort a tour in Cuba, courtesy of out-adventures.com, who also offer a $500CND; a weekend getaway in Whistler for Winterpride, courtesy gaywhistler.com; a complete retreat package from pHresh Spa; wardrobe from designer Nancy Perreault; a package from Priape; and, from Jean Paul Gaultier, a cover showcase in V-Rag Magazine; and a special photo shoot with photographer Nicholas Jang from double-take2.ca.

This fourth season of Gay Top Model was presented in partnership with River Rock Casino Resort, CityTV, WE and Priape. The final show at the River Rock Theatre had participation from Vancouver's top performers in their fields. Queen of Samba Lucia Azevedo, Rima Bellydancing Diva and the Haute Waacouture troupe showcased their dance talents. Award-winning Australian-Canadian duo Sugarbeach premiered their new song. Top burlesque performer Diamond Minx was joined on stage by the SparklePussies and from the drag community, Kiki Lawhore and Jaylene shined like diamonds. Comedian Dan Dumsha hosted the warm-up before CityTV's Breakfast Television personalities Michel McDermott and Kyle Donaldson hosted the main attraction. It was a night of fashion, music, dance and glamour, with the largest catwalk yet in the Gay Top Model competition.

Gay Top Model is a project of Mirateca Arts that raises funds for the Friends for Life Society. "I am excited to see what the future has in store for our new winner," says producer and creator/director of Gay Top Model, Terry Costa. "Also, we thank all our partners and supporters that helped us create this amazing competition. Without them, it would not be possible to raise much needed cash for our charity -- Friends for Life," adds Costa.

Visit **www.gaytopmodel.com** O

The only thing closer than the village is room service.

Located in the heart of downtown Toronto and around the corner from the Village, the Delta Chelsea is just steps from vibrant nightclubs, fabulous live theatre and amazing shopping.

Whether you choose to stay in or step out, you'll fnd it all at our urban resort.

Complimentary upgrade to a Signature Club Room*

DELTA CHELSEA DOWNTOWN TORONTO

For information on our Rainbow Rate, call 1-800-CHELSEA (243-5732) or visit www.deltachelsea.com/gaytoronto

*Upgrade conditional on booking the Rainbow Rate. Upgrade will be provided at check-in, subject to availability.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

AK ROSS

PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Dedicated to providing quality financial leadership, management and business services

For small to medium-sized businesses, including businesses in the health and fitness industry

A.K. Ross, CGA
Box 94090, RPO Elbow River
Calgary, Alberta T2S 0S4
Phone 403-512-9281 • Fax 403-264-4169 • Email ak@akrpc.ca • www.akrpc.ca

LABELS ARE FOR SOUP CANS

13th Annual Fairy Tales Queer Film Festival

May 26 - June 3, 2011 • www.fairytalesfilmfest.com • 403-263-0079

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Your starting point for: Unbiased Up-to-date FREE HIV and hepatitis C information.

In print, online, over the phone.

CATIE

Canada's source for HIV and hepatitis C information

1-800-263-1638
www.catie.ca
www.hepCinfo.ca

~ RANDALL SHIRLEY

The Traveller's Kingdom

Travel Editor Randall Shirley near the Tofino surf.
Photo: Denni Danieli-Polloni

Are you a Royal?

I was in London just before the royal wedding. The Royal Wedding—the one that happened 31 years ago, creating a people's princess as Diana Spencer married a guy named Chuck. London was abuzz with royal wedding fever. The once-happy couple's faces appeared on coffee mugs, t-shirts, and many other souvenirs. I bought a postcard.

That trip to London in 1980 was as life-changing for me as, perhaps, the royal wedding was for Diana. It showed me a world where I could feel like royalty; a "kingdom" filled with glamour and excitement and banquets and jet airliners and magnificent people.

The kingdom I gained was not one of political boundaries, but one of no boundaries. My inheritance from that royal wedding year was the Kingdom of Travel. My parents had allowed me out of the commoners' house, and my Prince Charming was a 747.

Over the years I've worked hard to keep exploring my kingdom—determining early that I would see the world when I at an age that I could easily tromp around majestically fabulous sites like the Great Wall of China (1987), The White House (1988), Versailles (1993), Taj Mahal (1994), Thai Royal Palace (1994), Petra (1995), and many others, including a trip back to the gates of Buckingham Palace and the most fairy-tale castle of all, Nueschwanstein, both in 2010.

Three decades later it seems like déjà-vu as another lovely young woman just married a much-more-convincing version of Prince Charming. I was lucky to recently visit the country that gave the couple their surname: Wales. You can join me for a peek inside that delightful corner of the kingdom on page XX.

Our other feature destination this month also tips our tiara to a place that partially bears the name of William's kingdom: Tofino, British Columbia. The activity I tried there is something I think Will and Kate would enjoy, and so would you.

With this issue, Outlooks embarks on a new chapter. I'm glad that the travel section will continue to be an important part of the publication. I invite you to engage, to let me know what destinations you'd like to see covered and what topics intrigue you as a gay traveller. Whether you've been lucky enough to create your own travel kingdom or are just beginning to explore the realm, I encourage you to travel out.

That's my outlook. Tell my yours via my blog at www.5faves.com.

150 years of Gay History: Visit Chicago!

Out in Chicago is an exhibition at the Chicago History Museum that explores Chicago's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities against the backdrop of the dynamic forces that shaped Chicago's development. The exhibition explores more than 150 years of urban history. The conversation will continue outside of the Museum's walls through an Out in Chicago Facebook page (**www.facebook.com/OutinChicago**). Just one more reason to visit this fabulously-American city.

Jozef Sloboda

In our travel story about Prague, designer Jozef Sloboda's name was misspelled in some instances. We regret the error. Visit him at

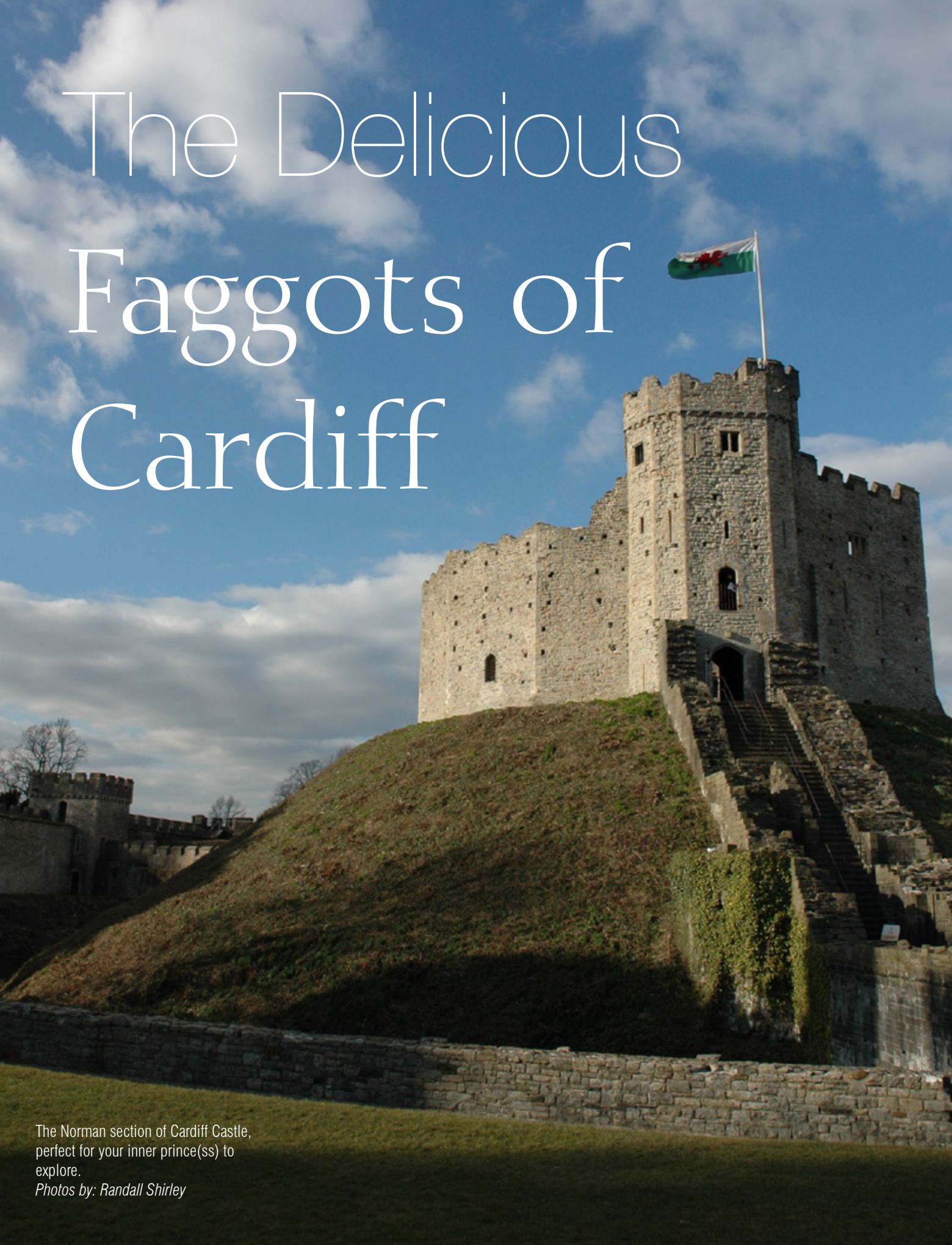
www.jozefsloboda.cz

The Gayest Sunday Brunch — only in Vegas

The Pool area at Rumor Boutique Hotel is called "Gossip," and the Las Vegas venue (near the Hard Rock) is launching quite a Sunday creation, called Sunkissed Pool Party & Brunch. The event begins with brunch at Addiction Restaurant ($35 buffet) and then moves to Rumor's pool area featuring cabanas and hammocks positioned amongst the hotel's swaying palms. Each Sunday will feature resident DJ Roger Gangi and bottomless Mimosas and Bloody Mary's served all day. If you want to stay, the hotel has 150 rooms.

www.rumorvegas.com

The Delicious Faggots of Cardiff



The Norman section of Cardiff Castle, perfect for your inner prince(ss) to explore.
Photos by: Randall Shirley

"Faggots and peas for you, luv?" the

counter clerk asks with an accent thick as Welsh pudding. ¶ "I'm not from around here, but I do love a good faggot!" I reply. "However, I've never actually purchased a faggot…can you tell me, what are the faggots you're selling?" ¶ "Faggots is basically just some delicious meatballs." She lifts the lid off a chaffing dish where meatballs are kept warm in the steam. "This is faggots, it is." ¶ "I'll have a pair!" I say, and pay the girl. ¶ The faggots are delicious. I eat them at a counter near the café, on the balcony that overlooks the selling floor of Cardiff's old market. A level below the colourful market bustles the way an old town market should, with a variety of tools, fruits, meats (I count six different butchers), Welsh souvenirs, and even pets for sale. ¶ Squint a little and the year is 1911, Cardiff is one of Europe's busiest port cities home to some of the world's richest coal mines, and the market hums with house-maids buying the best cuts of lamb for their wealthy coal baron employers, and labouring folks bartering over the ingredients for faggots and maybe a bit of cloth for a new apron.

I stop squinting, finish my faggots, and go downstairs where I treat myself to a dessert of scone-like Welsh cakes. Then I head to nearby Marks and Spencer to see what's on sale in a more modern setting. Surprisingly,

Fabulous Bonus? Get your fill of the meatballs in the Cardiff Market.

things in Cardiff (unlike London), seem competitively priced with back home in Canada, and I snag a couple of shirts in styles that I haven't seen at the Bay.

Later at my hotel—the smart and affordably priced Parc Hotel—I do a Google search for faggots. I fear the top listings will be on gaydar.uk or manhunt.net, but surprisingly the search brings up recipe websites and Wikipedia. I click to learn that faggots are not just meatballs. Wikipedia informs me that a faggot is "traditionally made from pig's heart, liver and fatty belly meat or bacon minced together, with herbs added for flavouring." After being shaped into a ball it's wraped with membrane from the pig's abdomen.

Sounds like sausage to me, or maybe even haggis. But it didn't taste like sausage. It was just pleasantly meaty and filling…the way a good faggot should be.

Cardiff is one of those cities I'd heard of all my life—there's a Cardiff-by-the-Sea in California, a Cardiff in Ontario, and in my 20s one of my short-term roommates was a guy named Arthur from this, the original Cardiff, in Wales. While thumb-tacking a white and green flag with a red dragon to his bedroom wall, Arthur firmly explained that Wales, like Scotland and Northern Ireland, is not English. Period.

Twenty years later I'm in Cardiff on a business trip. There are too many Arthur Smith's in the Cardiff directory to figure out which one is my former pal, but his country's flag is everywhere I look.

The Norman section of Cardiff Castle, perfect for your inner prince(ss) to explore.

The Welsh do love cheese—and you'll love theirs.

The Kings Cross has been a popular gay bar in central Cardiff since the 1960s.

Central Cardiff: Old meets new.

The Norman section of Cardiff Castle, perfect for your inner prince(ss) to explore.

Exploring at your leisure inside Cardiff Castle should satisfy your inner Queen for a while.

Faggots and Peas, a classic Welsh dish. Photo: Joseph Gough / Dreamstime

Just one of the many delicacies you find at Cardiff Market.

On previous trips to the British Isles, I couldn't imagine leaving London and it's glories, but as that city has become progressively expensive, British cities like Cardiff area catching more and more travellers' interest, and the friendly Welsh—all 2.9 million of them (outnumbered 4-1 by sheep) welcome visitors to a city that is both dripping with history and thriving in modernity.

The Welsh flag seems to be everywhere, along with street signs that remind me of travelling in Quebec: they're printed in both the country's official languages, English and Welsh. Like French, Welsh words all seem to have more letters than their English counterparts, but in Welsh very few of the letters are vowels. Luckily it's a language I don't need to learn as everyone speaks English.

The Welsh capital city manages to be vibrantly modern and stoically ancient at the same time. Near the market I wander into one of several Victorian-era arcardes—basically an enchanting alleyway filled with smart shops and eateries, covered by a glass ceiling. Hot chicks with shopping bags brush past me and a skaterdude's board nearly trips me.

In the heart of the Morgan Arcade I settle in at a café called The Plan, a bright white and wood space with gorgeous baked goods and delicious staff. My server's name is Trevor, and he could easily ride a skateboard. I ask about the quality of their coffee drinks, and Trevor informs in his beautiful Welsh accent that he is ranked #4 of all baristas in the UK. While I wait for Trevor to bring me his perfect coffee—a flat white—I squint again, and the café becomes a tea merchant selling old Ceylon's best to ladies in corsets and bustles. In a place like this it's easy to let the romance of history meld with the immediacy of now. The familiarity of the coffee could place me anywhere on earth, but the surroundings definitely place me in British history.

> "like many things in Cardiff, I discover that a bit of squinting takes me to another era."

Royalty of yesteryear left dandy castles and palaces all over the UK. The 2,000 year-old example history gave to Cardiff is a beauty: Cardiff Castle is the heart of the city—and a $17 ticket gets my inner-prince his ticket to an afternoon exploring walls and moats and turrets outside, and fairy-tale banquet halls and glorious rooms inside. I squint, and royal gay knights are coming in from the stables for their baths… ahhh, snap back to reality.

To rub shoulders with Cardiff's modern gay knights and ladies, I head a few blocks from the castle to the royally named Kings Cross gay bar, not far from the market and Victorian arcades in the heart of Cardiff's shopping area. It's a friendly spot in that very British-pub way, and great for connecting with locals.

But like many things in Cardiff, I discover that a bit of squinting takes me to another era. This time I'm transported away from the Lady Gaga playing on their system to the 1960s, and the music on the stereo is Tom Jones—one of Wales' great singing exports. I'm surrounded by rugged gay Welshmen who've ducked into Cardiff's oldest gay bar, cruising each other in the city's only really safe gay spot, complete with a back room. Today a rainbow flag proudly flies out front, and a sign inside the door tells the space's history. There are other gay venues in town, but the long history of the Kings Cross makes it special.

On my final night in Cardiff I've got tickets to a very gay show—the Rocky Horror Show—presented by a Broadway-calibre touring company. It's playing near my hotel at the New Theatre, which like many things in Cardiff is actually quite old, and runs a great variety of shows throughout the year.

I spot plenty of gay folks in the audience, and wonder how many of them had faggots for dinner.

The Details

(UK country code +44)

Stay:

- The Parc Hotel by Thistle. Mainstream, gay-friendly hotel in an excellent city-centre location. 84 5305 8311, **thistle.com**
- Ty Rosa B&B. Known as one of the UK's best gay-owned B&Bs. 84 5643 9962 **tyrosa.com**

Eat:

- B.R. Donnelly, faggots & peas, upstairs in the Cardiff Market
- The Plan, outstanding food and coffee, Morgan Arcade, 29 2039 8764
- Fresh, outstanding crusty bread sandwiches, Royal Arcade, 29 2022 3158

Play:

- Kings Cross Pub, 25 Caroline Street, 29 2064 9891
- The New Theatre, Park Place, 29 2087 8889, **newtheatrecardiff.co.uk**
- Cardiff Castle, 29 2087 8100 **cardiffcastle.com**
- Cardiff Market, 29 2087 1214, **cardiff-market.co.uk**
- Cardiff City Hall, gorgeous architecture and Heroes of Wales sculpture gallery, 29 2087 1736 **cardiffcityhall.com**
- The Royal & Morgan Arcades, unique shopping, **royalarcadecardiff.com**

Beginners
reviewed

The loss of a parent is a tragic twist of fate, but it's made even more complicated when your 70-year-old father comes out of the closet around the same time. In his new film "Beginners," Mills is actually showing audiences a glimpse a pivotal period in his own life. While parts of the film are largely fictionalized (a romance between Oliver and a young French actress played by Melanie Laurent is fiction, for example), the base of "Beginners" is very much Mills' own story.

"My dad did come out of the closet when he was 75 after my mom past away," Mills said. "It was - as you can imagine - a very chaotic, crazy time in our lives.

Mills' film, a humorous and emotional retelling of his and his father's story, shows us that it is never too late to realize what you want from life and begin again. Beginners deftly juggles two chronologies to tell the heartwarming story of two major points in the life of Oliver (Ewan McGregor), a talented illustrator.

One timeline follows the slow-burning deterioration of Oliver's father (Christopher Plummer), who is dying of cancer. But his impending death is not the only news that has caught Oliver off guard; his divorced father, at the age of seventy-five, has also come out of the closet. Just like that, he gets a new wardrobe, a new boyfriend and an entirely new outlook on life.

Following his father's death, a bereaved Oliver becomes somewhat of a shut-in. As Beginners takes us through his personal journey, the film flashes forward, intercutting a budding relationship between Oliver and a young French actress (Inglourious Basterd's Mélanie Laurent) whom he meets at a costume party that he attends under duress. The twin narratives gradually reveal subtle associations about how Oliver reacts to both these unpredictable relationships, and how his father and girlfriend motivate him to surpass his self-prescribed limitations.

McGregor and Laurent have natural onscreen chemistry, and Plummer is outstanding in his rich portrayal of a dying man who is finally able to live honestly, breaking out of his shell so near the end of his life. The ensemble cast lends the film a warm, understated aura that never feels the least bit contrived.

Mills is at the top of his game in crafting dynamic mood pieces that steer clear of the usual trappings found in American independent cinema. The outcome is a thoroughly enjoyable character study about people opening up and discovering themselves despite age, preconceptions and illness. O

INN
Exile
545 Warm Sands Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264
800-962-0186
www.innexile.com

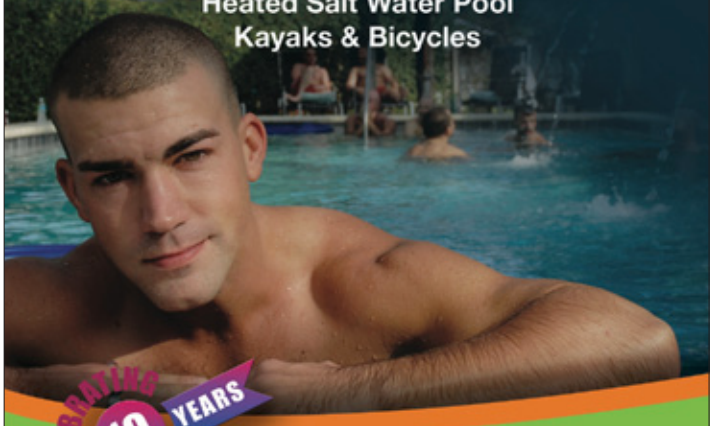
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND FANTASIZE ABOUT A PLACE WHERE BEING GAY IS A WAY OF LIFE.

Inn Exile is entirely gated, and located on 2 1/2 acres in a modern Southwest setting. The atmosphere couldn't be more inviting. With 4 Pools, there is a place to splash around everywhere you look. The Billiard Room, The Gang Way, or the Lap Top Lounge are a great way to pass the time with new friends. After your workout in the fully equipped gymnasium, choose one of the Jacuzzis, or perhaps the steam room to relax, recharge, or even invigorate. Days may be spent in the Sun, but the Outdoor Fireplace after Sunset, seems to call to everyone. Remember, at **Inn Exile, clothing is always optional.**

The Cabanas GUESTHOUSE & SPA

You Travel . . . We Host

Closest To Nightlife · Clothing Optional
Full Service Spa · Steam Room
Heated Salt Water Pool
Kayaks & Bicycles

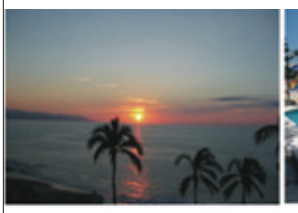


CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

local 954.564.7764
toll-free 866.564.7764
www.thecabanasguesthouse.com

Located in Wilton Manors The Heart of Gay Fort Lauderdale

BOANA Puerto Vallarta MEXICO



Each unit has:
* 1 bedroom
* 2 bathrooms
* kitchenette
* living room
* balcony
* air-conditioning
* maid service

Boana Torre Malibu-Condo Hotel, One block from GAY beach
Amapas 325, Zona Romantica, Puerto Vallarta Tel/fax 011-52 (322) 222-6695 / 222-0999
www.boana.net boana@pvnet.com.mx

Elysium Resort

FORT LAUDERDALE

Paradise Awaits ...

FORT LAUDERDALE'S LARGEST GAY MEN'S RESORT • 36 SUITES AND STUDIOS
180 YARDS TO BEACH • TWO CLOTHING OPTIONAL POOLS • OVERSIZED JACUZZI

When exciting Fort Lauderdale is your destination, your accommodations should live up to the local legends. ***The Elysium Resort, Fort Lauderdale's Largest and Friendliest Clothing-Optional Resort for Men*** is that place! Located just one block from the tropical shores of Fort Lauderdale Beach, the Elysium Resort, offers spacious studios and suites, detailed amenities, and a relaxed Florida atmosphere set amongst lush tropical foliage. Your hosts look forward to welcoming you! Paradise awaits...

Gay Owned and Operated

552 N. BIRCH ROAD
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
800-533-4755 · 954-564-9601
WWW.ELYSIUMRESORT.NET

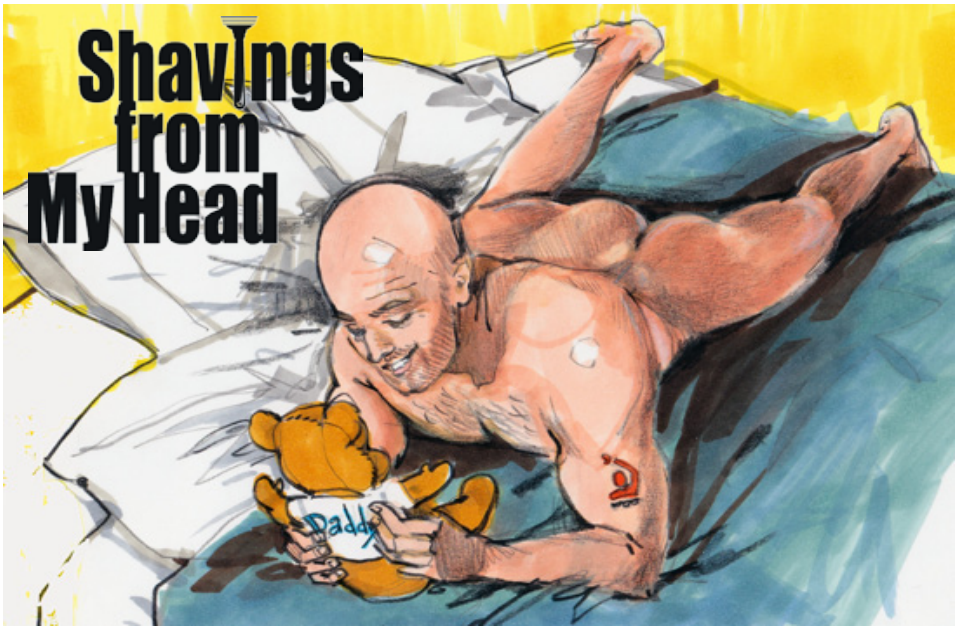


Illustration: Robert Best

The Good the Bad and the Cuddly

As I reclined into the depths of my bathtub, the massage of Jacuzzi jets gently pummeling my body, I thought about how satisfying it felt to be touched by something other than my own hands. With my head partially submerged beneath the water, through the hum of the Jacuzzi, I could hear the escalated thump of my heartbeat -- while the grimy ring of neglect wrapped around the walls of the tub, offering another dirty reminder: there'd been no overnight guests for a long while; only me.

While soaking -- counting the cluster of dark hairs overtaking my big toe -- I recalled something I'd heard once on a date. It was an honest declaration, so touching in fact, that it stayed with me -- repeatedly pulling me back into the sentiment: "Sometimes, I go home with people, even if I don't really want to have sex," declared S (my date) between sips of wine. "Just so I can have some human contact….just to be touched!"

Although I'd not done the same, I had to admit that the desire for the touch of another, more times than not, took priority over sex. Holding hands, watching a movie wrapped in each other's arms and those sweet kisses: the clothes-still-on kind; the precious kind that holds a relationship together -- when hungry fornication fades.

As the water jets continued to knead my body, I thought about my existing solitary situation as well the men who'd touched my past -- one ex-boyfriend in particular who, I (eventually) came to discover, had a scary history behind his sweet facade. Let's just say, he was my Mr. Ripley. To this day, friends still make statements like, "I don't know what you ever saw in him!" My reply is, and has always been, simple and sweet: "Because he always used to hold my hand." That answer escapes most, but to me, his handholding, the tenderness of the gesture, always put a calm reassurance into our relationship -- until (unfortunately) the rest came out.

Another week passed. My body remained untouched. My thoughts did not.

And then, it happened again while at dinner with a friend and a gaggle of relative strangers (all gay men). While poking at my orange chicken, quietly listening to gossipy banter regarding a myriad of recent trysts, the humpy man beside me blurted out, "Yeah, when I was younger -- in my twenties -- I used to be kind of a cuddle slut!"

A cuddle slut?" I asked, putting down my chopsticks.

"Ya' know, just the hugging, kissing and sleeping together part -- without having sex!"

Grabbing for more, I asked, "Does anyone else just, um, go for the hugging and not the humping?"

There was a moment of dim-sum induced silence."Sounds like a cock-tease to me!" one announced.

"I guess it's ok" another, chimed in after thoughtful consideration. "As long as the intent not to have sex is revealed, before you go home with them!"

"I donno know," declared another, "I guess I'm more like that now -- than when I was in my twenties." The table of (mostly middle-aged) homos nodded in agreement, between bites of Chinese food.

A few more days pass, and I'm recounting the cuddle conversation to a co-worker. (We'll call her K.) "It seems like people, even the Mos', are getting really touchy!" I announce between nibbles of my breakfast burrito.

She stares back quizzically like a cat that's humouring you until you open the can of food.

"Ya know" I continue, "Like, I donno know, people are beginning to admit that it's not just about getting laid."

K takes a sip of her Starbucks latte, then begins pecking at the keyboard of her computer, "Well then you better check this out!"

A few seconds later, in bold purple and yellow Brady Bunch-like lettering the words CUDDLE PARTY illuminates her screen -- framed by groups of smiling people fading in and out of various hugging poses -- like an animated yearbook filled with really enthusiastic students. I couldn't believe my eyes.

"Apparently they're all the rage," K announces. "Somebody was talking about it in my yoga class."

Later that night I curled up with my computer and the Cuddle Party website. In a nutshell, a cuddle party is: An event designed with the intention of allowing people to experience non-sexual, group physical intimacy through cuddling.I'll spare you the rest-TMI. (See below for website 411.)

After reading, I tried to get a grip. Admittedly -- and I know this sounds corny -- it did touch on this consideration: Had I become so consumed with cooking up sumptuous sexual entrees, that I'd all but shifted sweet to the side? Had holding been overlooked by the prospect(s) of humping?

I thought about Ripley and his handholding. I thought about the fact that when (visually) assessing someone, I rarely think God I'd love to hold his hand or boy I wish he'd hug me. Was I out of touch with touching? Myself? No! (Translation: I'm a master at masturbation.) As for others? Guilty as charged! So I made a deal with myself. Going forward, I would reach out and get more "in touch."

I am an east-coaster, bred from New England roots, from military and religious roots. We are not a touchy lot. Reaching out, being touchy-feely did not come easily.

So I started small. When at restaurants, I took to placing my hand on the waiter's arm while ordering. At first ,this felt as if I were a baby approaching a stove: like I might scorch my hand on a flame. I was about as natural as a vampire being served garlic chicken. (Side note: this does NOT work in fancy or really gay restaurants.)

When I saw my friends I began to routinely hug them -- which they found extremely uncharacteristic (translation: annoying), and I even began holding the door for people -- cute and otherwise.The outcome was no-holds-barred remarkable.

Until the whole hugging, cuddling thing appeared, I hadn't really given it much thought. I'd only been paying attention to the obvious things thrust in my face -- things that I'd been conditioned to look for -- things like a cute butt and dimples.

And there it was, the hand that I'd wished to hold just kept slapping me with examples of my oblivious participation.

While I doubt that I'll ever host a Cuddle Party and my friends have grown extremely weary of my affectionate posturing -- after all the mental and physical holding, I've come to embrace this: If you're looking for a handout, no one will give you money, old sandwiches, apple wine, a cigarette or anything you deem valuable, unless you hold out the appropriate sign!

So I leave you with this, in the wistful words of Miss Diana Ross:

"Touch me in the morning…
…then just walk away…
we don't have tomorrow…
…but we had yesterday (but yesterdays gone my love, there's only now and it's time to face it)
Touch me in the morning…"

To share your shaving graces, read my additional ramblings or to acquire DomeBoy products visit **www.shavingsfrommyhead.com**

To learn more about Cuddle Parties go to: **www.cuddleparty.com** O

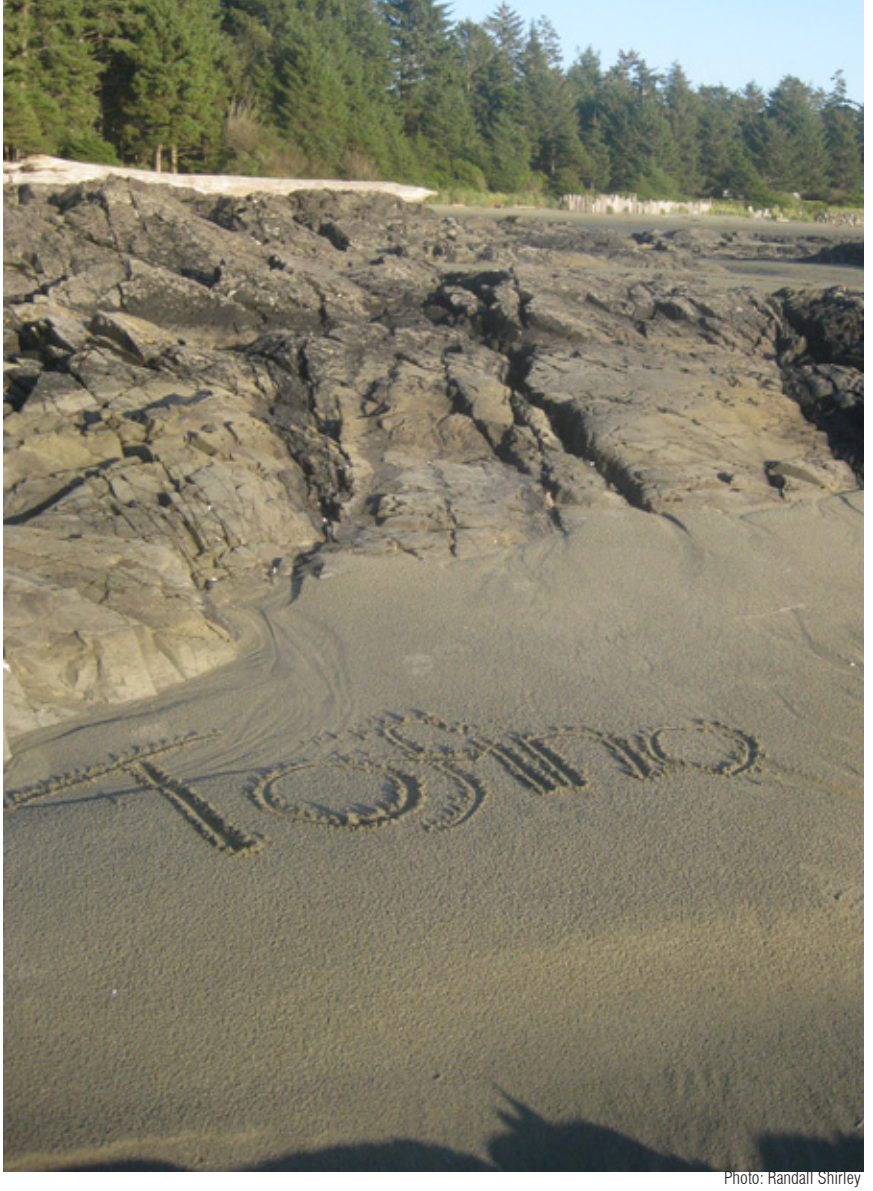


Photo: Randall Shirley

Hang 10 Canadian Style

Hanging on the edge of Vancouver Island, Travel Editor Randall Shirley discovers a hippie-hangout turned upscale resort area is truly another world.

SURFING IS A HAWAII THING, RIGHT? I MEAN, TO learn to "hang ten," you get some handsome Hawaiian with 27 vowels in his name to teach you to ride a long board. At the very least you go to California.

So why the hell am I learning to surf from a blond-haired white guy, in the chilly Canadian waters of the Pacific, off the coast of Vancouver Island?

Because it's surfing's now thing. This is where today's kind of surfing happens. Surfing has begun to shake its tropical, bleached-hair image as surfers follow huge ocean currents—some from as far away as Australia—to a gorgeous stretch of beach near Tofino, British Columbia.

Tofino, like so many other slices of BC paradise, has morphed from a place where hippies went to disappear to a region full of bajillion-dollar homes. But the hippies and the wealthy ladies-who-spa manage to all hang out in peace, and as wet-suit technology has improved, surfers have joined them.

Bits of surfer culture have come along, too—from a half-dozen rental shops to a food truck making the best fish tacos we've ever tasted. Outside magazine even named Tofino "2010 Best Surf Town in North America." The area hosts a major international surf competition each October, called the Cold Water Classic.

Unfortunately, none of the region's surfers are openly gay. In fact, on the day we take our surfing lesson, Denni and I are the only known-gay surfers around, and we're hardly real surfers.

Instructor Josh Lewis, who runs the surf shop and teaches lessons for Long Beach Lodge, doesn't know any openly gay or lesbian surfers. He can't come up with a reason why there aren't openly gay people involved, and he doesn't think surfing is exclusionary. I surmise it's more likely our people just haven't taken to it. Considering how many snowboarding homos I know, that's something of a surprise.

After a few hours in the water with Josh off Tofino's Cox Bay Beach, Denni and I are exhausted. We've paddled our boards onto multiple "perfect" learner waves, and ridden many all the way to shore. But neither has managed to stand up on the damn board for more than a couple of seconds. We've followed Josh's every guideline, we've grabbed the waves he recommends, and I've even remembered tips I read in The Girl's Guide to Surfing, a book next to the bed in our villa, just up the beach.

None of it is helping. We've burned off breakfast; we're

1. Tofino is becoming North America's surf paradise. Photo: Randall Shirley
2. Yes, Tofino's got surf! Photo: Randall Shirley
3. Misty mornings in Tofino. Photo: Randall Shirley
4. Wanna surf? Josh Lewis is a great guy to have in the water teaching you. Photo: Josh Lewis joshlewis.com

beat. Back on the beach, Super-friendly Josh tells us we've both done really well, and encourages us to try another lesson, either with him or somewhere in our travels.

IN THE KITCHEN OF OUR Pacific Sands Resort villa, Denni warms up gourmet spicy chili and pizza made by SoBo which we've selected from the resort's front desk pantry fridge—a clever touch for a resort that wants to stay out of the restaurant business. SoBo is one of several outstanding restaurants in the village, seven kilometers up the road. Gazing out through big sliding doors and windows at the pounding Pacific, we nosh and reflect on this magical place called Tofino—a place that's convinced two middle-aged gay men to actually don wet suits look like fools in the surf.

Tofino has, perhaps, the most beautiful scenery on Canada's west coast. As we arrived via Orca Air from Vancouver (one hour flying, vs. 4-5 hours ferry/driving), our jaws dropped. For my partner, that's saying something: he grew up on the coast of northern BC and is not easily impressed.

The rugged coastline, and the expense of the flight or long drive to get to Tofino, truly makes us feel we're someplace different and far away, where time does slow down, where the pound of the surf can be clearly heard from our bed, where morning mist hangs in the air not to obscure the view…but to complement it. During our four-day stay, we take multiple long strolls hand-in-hand on the sand at Cox Bay Beach, Chesterman Beach, and Long Beach. We peek into magical tidepools, ride borrowed bikes through rainforest trails, and hike to a spot called Sunset Point that feels like the literal edge of the planet. Tofino takes our minds far from our daily life, and fills our souls with all the freshness and majesty nature could possible offer.

Thus far humans have been reasonably careful in what they've built there. The resorts aren't over-the-top, and none are chains. The Wickaninnish Inn—easily the region's most-famous lodging has even managed to market winter in Tofino as a tourist

Tucked right on the beach, Pacific Sands Resort is a divine place to stay. Photo: Pacific Sands Resort

event, branding it "storm watching."

Our villa at the Pacific Sands lets us feel like the surfer dudes we came here to be. The resort has mostly bungalows and townhouse-style suites, and they are wonderfully comfortable and cozy; we can imagine living here (a possibility, we learn the owners are mulling selling some villas as time-shares).

By our third day, our bodies ache less from the surfing, and we promise each other to take another lesson someday…likely in Hawaii's warm waters. But we will come back to Tofino to chill out, eat great food at The Wick, and watch the surfers who choose to hang ten, Canadian style.

The Details:

Get there. Tofino Air and Orca Air fly frequently from Vancouver International Airport, fares start around $400 round-trip, taxes included. Driving from Vancouver is a 5-hour prospect, slightly shorter if you fly into Victoria or Nanaimo and rent a car there.

Stay: (the resorts listed are on Tofino's beaches, we found all to be very gay-friendly)

- Pacific Sands Resort. From cozy studios to 3-bedroom villas, all w/kitchens. $190+. 1-800-565-2322, **pacificsands.com**
- The Wickaninnish Inn. Rugged elegance with emphasis on service; Lexus hybrid SUVs you can "borrow." Most rooms traditional hotel style. $300+. 1-800-333-4604, **wickinn.com**
- Long Beach Lodge. Centre of the best surfing beach. Most rooms hotel style. $199+, full breakfast incl. 1-877-844-7873, **longbeachlodgeresort.com**

Eat: (the focus everywhere seems to be "locally-sourced")

- Tacofino. Amazing fish tacos, friendly people. Fun. Open seasonally, check their Facebook page for times/location via **tacofino.com.**
- SoBo. Imaginative gourmet dining available at their restaurant or frozen at Pacific Sands. 311 Neill Street, 250-725-2341, **sobo.ca**
- The Point. Among the world's most-beautiful dining rooms, perched above the cliffs inside The Wick. The food and service match the setting.
- Shelter. Lovely setting and a locals' favourite. 601 Campbell Street, 250-725-3353, **shelterrestaurant.com**

Play:

- General area info: beyond surfing, the area offers opportunities for whale watching, hot springs, hiking, cycling, and more. **tourismtofino.com**
- Surfing Lessons: Long Beach Lodge with Josh Lewis or other staff: **longbeachlodgeresort.com**
- Event: Cold Water Classic Surfing Competition, Dates in October, 2011, **coldwaterclassiccanada.com**
- Art: Eagle Aerie Gallery: Worth seeing the "longhouse" style room whether you're art shopping or not.

The Point restaurant at Tofino's Wickaninnish Inn is a gorgeous room with food to match.
Photo: Rob Melnychuck/Wickaninnish Inn

B&B's IN THE HEARTH OF MONTREAL'S GAY VILLAGE

Sir Montcalm Gite/B&B

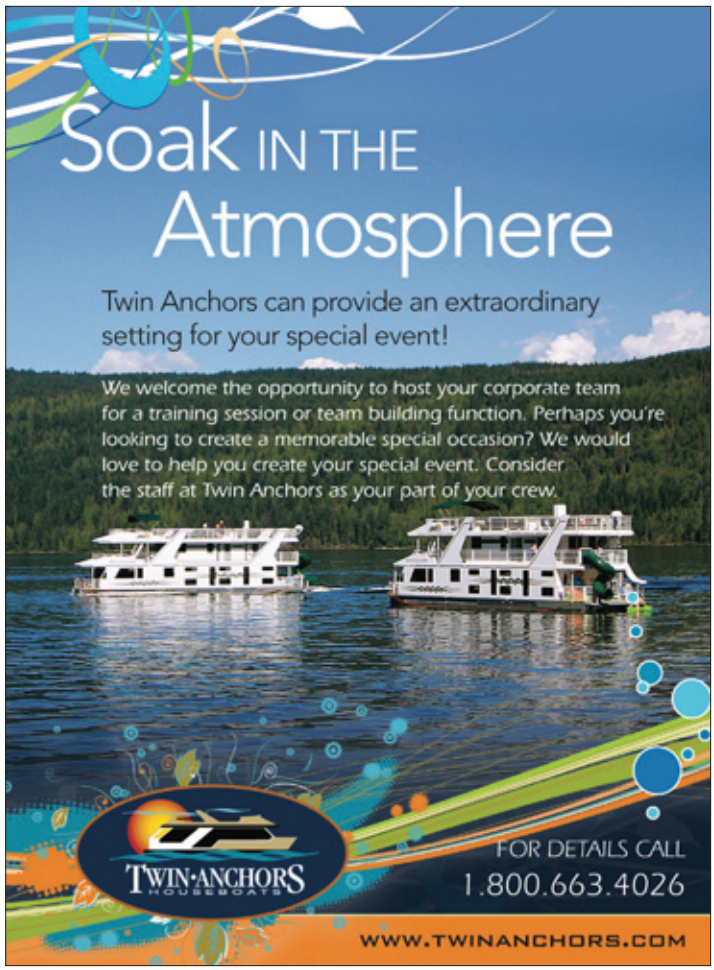
1453 rue Montcalm, Montréal H2L 3G9
www.sirmontcalm.com 514 522-7747

Alexandre Logan (1870)

1631, Alexandre-De-Sève, Montréal (Québec) H2L 2V8
www.alexandrelogan.com Toll free CAN/USA 1-866-895-0555

BED & BREAKFAST AUBERGELL.com L'UN ET L'AUTRE

1641 Amherst, Montréal H2L 3L4
www.aubergell.com 514 597-0878



Fairy Tales Film Festival:

It Keeps Getting Better

Calgary's queer calendar isn't as choc-a-bloc as other cities; but every Spring, LGBT film-lovers welcome Fairy Tales. Entering its thirteenth year, Fairy Tales Presentation Society (to be precise) hosts ten days of the best in queer cinema from around the globe, community after-parties and special events.

This year's special events are especially, well . . . special, as Fairy Tales has announced a visit by Dan Savage on June 1. Savage, who has been writing the massively popular Savage Love sex column for 20 years, became a household name last year after uploading a video to YouTube after a rash of teen suicides. Savage and his partner Terry hoped to inspire young people who were facing harassment due to their sexuality. Within months, over 10,000 similar videos popped up from notable people like Barak Obama, Adam Lambert, Tim Gunn and Ellen DeGeneres.

Savage heard about Fairy Tales' own "It Gets Better" project, produced in collaboration with the Calgary Police Service and EMMEDIA. Youth were invited to learn about video production and create their public service announcements to reach other youth in their community.

Jessica Dollard, Programming and Producing Director, believes that attracting Dan Savage will reflect positively on the programming, and help grow the festival. "The fact that we've been able to attract someone of Dan's Savage's calibre will allow us to build the reputation of the festival, both nationally and internationally."

Fairy Tales, like any grassroots festival, relies entirely on the support of government funding, movie-lovers and sponsors. Dollard hopes that this year's program propels the festival to new levels.

The year's film lineup includes 64 feature films from all genres including documentary, foreign films, comedy, drama and even horror. The festival runs from May 26 to June 3 at Calgary's Plaza Theatre, Vertigo Playhouse and the Uptown Stage and Screen. For more information,

visit www.fairytalesfilmfest.com

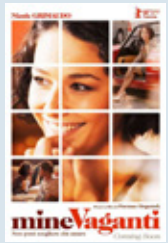
2011 Films NOT to be Missed

TO FARO (MEIN FREUND AUS FARO) -- Friday, May 27, 6:30 p.m.
Mel, a gender-variant factory worker, is ready to leave small-town Germany and see the world with brother Knut. When plans go awry, Mel's path leads to two hitchhikers who mistake Mel for a handsome Portuguese man -- Miguel. Embracing the mutual attraction with spirited Jenny, Mel seizes the opportunity for reinvention as Miguel.

OFF BEAT -- Friday, May 27, 8:30 p.m.
Twenty-six-year-old Lukas is not living, he's barely surviving. His dream of making it as a rap musician is on the wane, and life with his 46-year-old producer and lover Mischa has become unsatisfying. Lukas' only escape is alcohol and cocaine, a trend of which Mischa grows tired. Mischa soon sets his sights on Lukas' younger brother Sämi, a growing star in the rap world. Lukas finds himself oscillating between jealousy and concern for his younger brother, who he fears could wind up sharing his fate.

THE ADVOCATE FOR FAGDOM -- Saturday, May 28, 10:30 p.m.
Canadian Filmmaker Bruce LaBruce has made a career out of shocking mainstream, middle-class gay sensibilities with his provocative films that merge indie-punk cinema with an aesthetic of explicit gay pornography. In this full-length documentary by Angélique Bosio, rare archive material, collaborators and famous colleagues peel back the often acerbic layer of the LaBruce Canon to reveal a strong sense of the artist behind the art.

GEN SILENT -- Thursday, June 2, 7:00 p.m.
The aging LGBT community is often overlooked by mainstream culture. Gen Silent is a touching documentary examining the lives of the pioneers of equal rights and the their new realities. We learn about the hardships they face, like rejection, loneliness, vulnerability, anger, anxiety, deterioration, mental illness, and cancer. We also see strength, hope and new expressions of love, which make their lives so profound.



LOOSE CANNONS -- Friday, June 3, 7:00 p.m.
In this coming-out comedy from Italy, we meet Tommaso, a man with a comfortable life in Rome as an aspiring writer who is in a steady relationship with his boyfriend Marco — a life he has kept secret from his family. When he's called back to his hometown of Lecce in Southern Italy to help run the family business, he decides to reveal his homosexuality to his conservative family and hopefully get out of his business obligations in the process. Loose Cannons takes a playful approach to the family dramedy, matching a critique of provincial Southern values with an eccentric cast of characters that includes a philandering conservative father, a boozing aunt, a pair of disgruntled maids and Tommaso's bubbly friends.

Savage Love

With more than half a million hits in its first week, "It Gets Better" has gained immense popularity as an online community of hope and support for gay teens who struggle with social isolation, depression, and bullying. Speaking out to college audiences in multimedia and interactive presentations, Savage creates a place for young people of all orientations to share their stories and show their support. Savage will present at Fairy Tales live on Wednesday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Vertigo Playhouse Theatre (161, 115-9th Avenue SE). General admission tickets and VIP packages are available.

Photo: Nicholas Jang www.double-take2.ca

Dan Savage's
"It Gets Better"

Last year, in his syndicated sex-advice column "Savage Love," Dan Savage wrote about the case of Billy Lucas, a 15-year-old high school student in Indiana who committed suicide after being taunted by his classmates for being gay.

In the column Savage, himself an openly gay man, lamented that he couldn't have sat down with Lucas, even for five minutes, and told him "however bad things were, It Gets Better."

But then he realized that, while it was too late to talk to Billy Lucas, it wasn't too late to talk to the millions of kids just like him. So, right then and there, he and his husband decided to do just that. They sat down in front of a camera and told their stories about their horrific high school experiences and, more importantly, how they survived, thrived and have gone on to live happy lives. They posted the video on YouTube and asked other gay, bisexual and transgender adults to do the same. And that's when the It Gets Better project began.

"I posted something to my blog about Billy Lucas — who might not have even been gay, he wasn't out if he was gay, and not all kids who experience anti-gay bullying are gay — but he was bullied for being gay… and it occurred to me that I could talk to these kids. … I could use social media, I could go on YouTube, I could make a digital video and I could post it, and I could directly address them and tell them, 'It Gets Better.'

Of course, the issue of the bullying — and digital abuse — of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teenagers isn't a new one, but for the most part, coverage has been limited to local news. Sadly, that changed with the suicide of 18-year-old Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi, who leapt from the George Washington Bridge after his roommate secretly taped (and subsequently posted) video of him having a sexual encounter with another man.

And with the Clementi case making headlines nationwide, It Gets Better became flooded with videos from all around the world of LGBT men and women looking to share their stories, to spread hope. "It's been so overwhelming, [and] we want to create an archive that lives online forever, for each generation of gay kids coming up, so they can go there and they can see these stories," he said. "I've heard from mothers of bullied gay teenagers who are sitting down to watch these videos together and taking such hope for their futures, and that's what I want to see. I want to see the people who need to see these videos finding there way to them. Not just today or tomorrow, but whenever."

Dan Savage is author of the internationally syndicated relationship and sex column Savage Love and the weekly podcast Savage Lovecast. Most recently he has authored the book It gets Better. He is also the editorial director of the Seattle weekly The Stranger, where he was formerly Editor-in-Chief. He is a regular contributor to PRI's "This American Life" and has been featured as a Real Time Reporter on HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher." O

The Gay Gastronome

DJ Mitchell

Lobster Reseeding in Northumberland Strait.

The Northumberland Fishermen's Association will be reseeding 100,000 lobster larvae this summer. Several projects will be carried out in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, sending the little bugs to sheltered areas on the ocean floor.

"It's still early days," says Ronnie Heighton, president of the Northumberland Fishermen's Association. "From the time the lobster is seeded on the bottom, it takes seven years for it to reach a marketable size. The theory behind it is good; but it has yet to be proven."

About two weeks after hatching, stage-four larvae are about the length of a dime with appendages and can sink from the water surface, protecting them from predators or contaminants on the water surface.

Fisheries union members have been involved with seeding about 20,000 lobster larvae in fishing areas near Cape John.

"It's better than doing nothing. We have faith in it and we'll keep doing it until there is proof it's not working," says union spokeswoman Ruth Inniss. "It's such a beleaguered area that we have to do something -- at least try."

Grow your own...

Produce costs are going to continue to rise. This trend will keep pace with the cost of fuel to bring goods to the marketplace. There are a number of things that the consumer can do to keep some of this money in their own pocket.

Change out the flower pot geraniums for a herb garden. Basil, mint, or dill can add some different shades of green to your balcony garden. A pot of chives will grow in all regions of Canada and the edible purple flowers will add some nice colour to any salad.

Join a community garden. This may be a good alternative, if you have a need to get your hands dirty and don't have the space in your apartment. The typical gardens are about 2 meters by 3 meters and can give enough space for most vegetables plots, and even a few flowers or small bushes. It's a great way to meet fellow plant enthusiasts.

Buy produce grown locally at the farmers' markets. The price may not necessarily be lower; but you can be certain that the products have the least amount of transportation costs and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Festivals - Eat and Drink

May 21-29, 2011 Bromont Chocolate Festival

Bromont, Quebec,

Weekends only. Celebrate la Fête du chocolat (chocolate festival) in Bromont, home of the Chocolate Museum. Unique in Québec, the Bromont Chocolate Fest is where chocolate in all its forms is celebrated. Set in the heritage sector of Bromont, the Fest is a one-of-a-kind event, offering the general public tastings and cultural activities.

May 25-30, 2011 79th Apple Blossom Festival
Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia,

Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival. This springtime celebration is a showcase of local traditions and agricultural heritage. An event not to be missed for all Valley communities and visitors alike, making it the one of the leading festivals in Atlantic Canada. The Apple Blossom Festival is the second longest consecutive running festival in Canada.

May 28, 2011 Terroir Wine Celebration
Picton, Ontario

Come celebrate the wonderful wines of Prince Edward County at the Prince Edward County Wine Growers Association Spring Wine Celebration.

June 8-12, 2011 18th Mondial de la Biere
Montreal, Quebec

Another great reason to visit Montreal. The Beer Festival -- an innovative tasting journey into the World of Beer.

June 10-12, 2011 EAT! Vancouver: Food + Cooking Festival 2011
Vancouver, British Columbia

EAT! Vancouver encompasses unique food experiences -- opportunities to learn behind-the-scenes culinary magic from professional chefs; dynamic entertainment through celebrity chef cooking demonstrations and intense culinary competitions; diverse food, beverage and cooking related exhibits; and of course, fantastic shopping opportunities.

June 17-18, 2011 BC Shellfish Festival
Comox, British Columbia

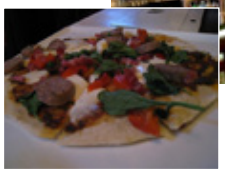
Canada's oyster growing capital. Chefs' Dinner: a six-course meal served by some of BC's top chefs with each course expertly paired with a BC wine. Cooking demos, the BC Oyster Shucking Championship, the Comox Valley Chowder Challenge, live music, beer/wine bar and lots of locally grown, sustainably raised seafood from BC's coastal waters. It's the largest shellfish festival on the west coast.

Tastes of Canada

~DJ MITCHELL

100 Bar + Kitchen $$$

10009 - 101 A Avenue,
Edmonton, AB
www.centuryhospitality.com



100 Bar + Kitchen is part of the Century Hospitality Group, a chain of five fine restaurants along with a catering and events group in Edmonton. All five of the restaurants are worthy of a visit – but we will focus on 100 Bar + Kitchen for this issue.

The room has dark walls and floors that are offset by red leather banquettes and chairs. Overall, the feeling is very warm and comfortable. The offset lighting and modern chandeliers complete the chic setting for a new, trendy restaurant.

Corporate Chef Paul Shufelt designed the contemporary menu after visits to San Francisco, Chicago and NY. "Comfort food with a modern spin," he says. Little Frying Pan Cheese is a new spin on the Greek favorite Saganaki – toasted cheese, flambéed with brandy, a squeeze of lemon, served with fresh baguette. The Bacon Cheeseburger Perogies come stacked with fresh greens arranged on top. Shufelt has created a new way to present something that could be considered a comfort food. For the pizza lovers, their signature artisan pizzas, earth, surf, and turf are sure to please. Their grilled tuna with wasabi and sesame crust, baby bok choy and miso orange vinaigrette is a treat for the fish lovers. If you're looking for beef (and who isn't) then the Triple A tenderloin will make you very happy. Dessert? Try the Cookies 'n' Cream or perhaps the Rocky Road Cheesecake Martini.

100 Bar + Kitchen is a good beginning on the exploration of the rest of Century's restaurants.

The Whale's Bone Oyster House $$

430 Bank Street,
Ottawa, ON
www.thewhalesbone.com

Now, for something completely different -- oysters. If you have a taste for the slippery bivalves – then Whale's Bone in Ottawa is the place to go. Oysters are the clear favourite for this place. They bring in fresh catch daily from both the east and west coast. The oysters are served raw and have a variety of sauces and dips to enhance the flavour.

If you're not quite ready to be slurping from the half shell, the menu also has some nice cooked things as well, although decidedly fishy – salmon, tuna, mackerel, and octopus. For those of you that only eat meat that has walked around, order the ribs.

There is a retail market in the restaurant if your preference is to enjoy the freshest fish at home.

If you feel like a sailor, there's a tattoo parlor just across the street so that you can get a "lifelong" memory of your trip to Whale's Bone.

Chez Piggy Restaurant & Bar $

68R Princess Street,
Kingston,ON
www.chezpiggy.com

Meet you at the "Pig" for an extended lunch.

Rose Richardson and Zal Yanovsky renovated the abandoned limestone stable in 1979 and, since then, have maintained a dining experience that blends grace and gusto, taste and imagination -- and helped make Kingston a destination for food lovers. On a nice day, the patio is superb, with trees, flowers, and nice stone building all around. Overall, the outdoor space is very, very quaint.

The lunch menu has some inventive lighter fare: seared scallops with ginger cream sauce, and some interesting pâtés – stilton cheese or foie gras with rhubarb compote.

If you need something a bit more filling, try the smoky beef burger with guacamole or the Chilaquiles con Pollo.

The restaurant has published a book of its recipes so that you can take the "Pig" home with you if you're not from Kingston.

~ DJ MITCHELL

SPRING GREENS

ADDING LIFE TO SALADS

HOW MANY OF YOU RELIGIOUSLY PURCHASE SALAD GREENS (because you're supposed to…) and then throw them out a week later untouched. Hopefully these few easy tips will give some extra inspiration to make the wilted iceberg lettuce more interesting and avoid ripping open another bag of frozen French fries.

Creativity with greens is the first step. You can purchase several washed, pre-packaged "salad bags" from your local grocer. I typically use a spring mix with baby spinach, red leaf lettuce, arugula, or oak leaf lettuce. Some of the producers offer premixed greens with herbs – also very good. If you don't mind actually washing your greens you can save some money and buy whole heads of butter lettuce, endive, or radicchio. Look for interesting textures and colours in your greens as well. Maybe add some frisée or curly red leaf lettuce for extra dimension.

If you are purchasing greens that need to be washed, they should also be thoroughly dried before being turned into salad, otherwise they will water down the dressing. A salad spinner is a handy kitchen gadget that actually works quite well (order online or pick them up for a song any weekend at a local garage sale). Otherwise, after shaking off most of the water, you can roll the washed lettuce in paper towels to help absorb the remaining moisture. Plan on about 2 cups of mixed greens per serving.

Ok enough about the lettuce. The typical toppings include other fresh vegetables including tomatoes, cucumber or celery. However, there are so many other things that you can consider; shredded carrots, black olives, shredded red cabbage, or even fresh peas in season. I like to slice up some avocado with onions and capers. Avocado needs to be added at the last minute to prevent the flesh from turning brown. Chopped fennel bulb will add a nice mild liquorice flavour to some of the more bitter greens.

Lightly steaming some vegetables can slightly alter their flavour and provide a nice change up. Consider green beans, cauliflower or asparagus for this alternative.

Fruit can be a surprising change up. I've used strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, or grated apple. Citrus fruit like orange or grapefruit slices or fresh pineapple go really well, especially with dark greens like spinach. Dried fruits can add a concentrated flavour and different texture that will wake up the taste buds. I've used dried cherries and apricots with blue cheese as a nice combination.

All salads don't have to be cold. Grilling vegetables such as asparagus, zucchini or Portobello mushrooms that have been combined with barbecued chicken breast, shrimp or salmon can be served on a bed of mixed spring greens to make a quick and nutritious complete meal. Warming a vinaigrettes prior to adding to your salad can punch up the flavour. Be careful not to add to much because the warm dressing can make the lettuce go a bit limp.

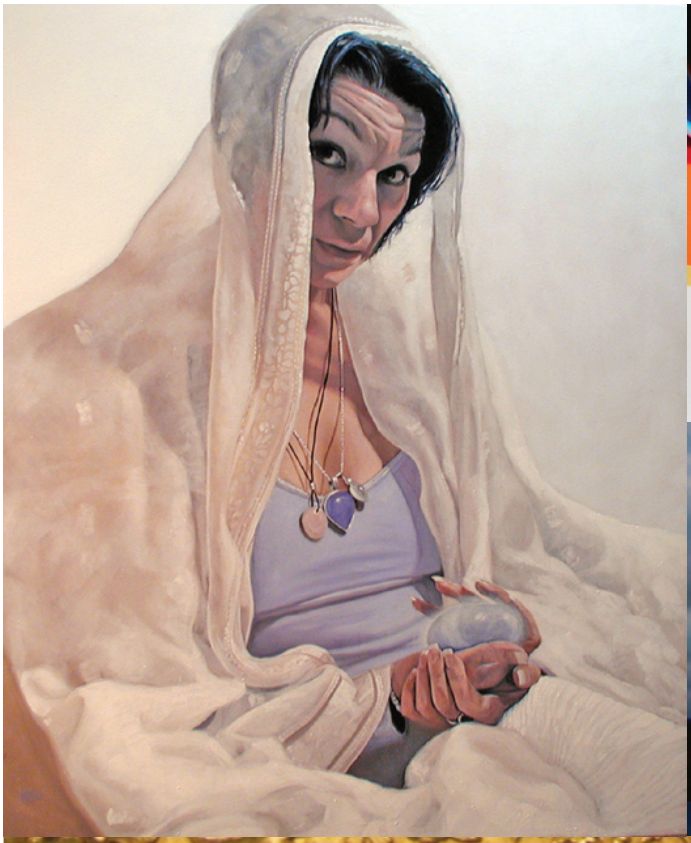
For a real punch, strong flavours like anchovies, crumbled bacon bits, hard boiled egg slices, or stinky cheese (Roquefort or feta) will take your mind off the boring iceberg and let you focus on other tastes.

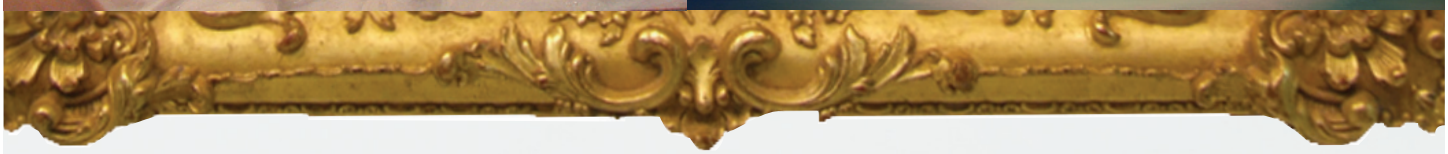
I've used candied walnuts combined with blue cheese and diced granny smith apples as a nice combination. Other nuts like almonds or hazelnuts and seeds (black sesame, sunflower or pumpkin) can be used. Nuts and seeds should be toasted prior to adding to your salad. Shaking them onto a baking dish and microwaving until slightly browned is an easy way to do this. Make sure you stir frequently or some will burn and others will be white.

Don't over dress your salad. A teaspoon of dressing per person, well tossed, should be all that is needed. Why make a nice salad and then soak it in dressing to the point that you can't taste all the other things that have been added? Bottled dressings are just fine. But look for the reduced calorie or no fat varieties. If you can't see through the dressing – it's probably not that good for you. Virgin olive oil and lemon juice and chopped fresh herbs will often suffice. Balsamic vinegar reduction (purchase at an Italian specialty store) drizzled over top with freshly grated parmesan cheese adds the flavour without a lot of dressing calories. To add flavour and dimension to your vinaigrette dressings, try adding ingredients like minced shallot, garlic, ginger, onion or green onion. Play with the flavours by adding small amounts of flavouring ingredients such as mustard, honey, hot sauce or soy sauce.

Keep chopping and dicing, be creative and introduce salads as a whole meal in your home. O

THE ART GALLERY OF CALGARY





TRADITIONS ILLUMINATED: CELEBRATING THE HALLS

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 to SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2011

For the first time together, The Art Gallery of Calgary presents
John Hall, Joice M. Hall, Janine Hall and Jarvis Hall.
One of Alberta's most established family of artists,
this exhibition celebrates the talents of the Halls,
including Jarvis Hall's highly regarded, frame-making practice.

Guest Curator: Anne Ewen

Janine Hall, *Rain Song*, John Hall, *Rattle*, Joice M. Hall, *Celestial Rays*, Jarvis Hall, 18th cent. replica frame

LOCH GALLERY
Let art enrich your life
WALLACE GALLERIES
Canada Council for the Arts
Conseil des Arts du Canada
The Alberta Society of Artists
Calgary arts Development
The City of Calgary
TOTAL Transportation Solutions Inc.
avenue magazine
Citytv
Calgary Herald
ExecSuite Settle In
Ruth's Chris Steak House
Grumans Extraordinary Catering
Alberta Foundation for the Arts

117 - 8 AVENUE S.W. CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA T2P 1B4
WWW.ARTGALLERYCALGARY.ORG

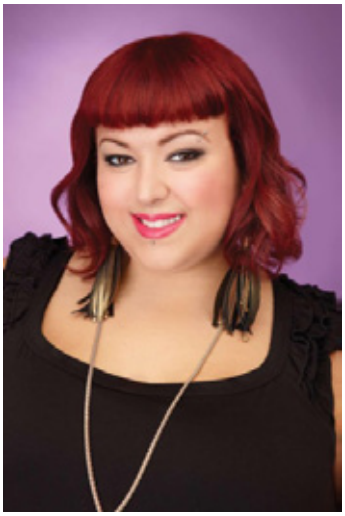
Quick Looks

thestyleguys@outlooks.ca

Topshop, Meet the Bay

Another major international retailer is setting its sites on Canada. This time the British mega-brand Topshop bring its "cheap and cheerful" collections to Bay stores across the country in existing Bay stores, and will eventually open stand-alone shops. Bonnie Brooks, Chief Executive Officer of the Bay, estimates as many as 50 locations for Topshop and Topman in the next five years. Topshop is currently available in 20 countries worldwide, with only one flagship American store on Broadway in New York City.

MizBiffi



Jessica Biffi, another of our favourite Project Runway Canada contestants, has launched her own line of women's wear called MizBiffi. Sold exclusively to the shopping channel, the collection is geared to the plus-sized woman. The 27-year-old Biffi will add MizBiffi to her ready-to-wear, menswear, and Covet jewelry collections.

All Hail, Allsaints

While we will still be waiting a while before Allsaints Spitalfields comes to Canada, the edgy British retailer is now shipping to Canada. A newby, compared to other British fashion must-haves, the look is effortless, detailed and features the kinds of trends that stay in your closet for the long-term. We're especially mad for their knitwear, blazers and boots. Visit **www.allsaints.com**

More Joe

This Spring, Joe Fresh Style will open another four new stand-alone stores in Canada. Heartland, Mississauga, Bramalea City Centre, CrossIron Mills (Calgary) and Vaughan Mills will carry Mr. Mimram's men's, women's, kids', babies', jewelry, glasses and cosmetics lines. Not near one of these stores? Fear not, they are planning 20 more in the next couple of years.

~ ALY VELJI

Outdoor Living

Make any outdoor party that much more stylish.

Although we get to enjoy the great outdoors in shorts and t-shirts for only a short time out of the year, I think we must make the most of every minute of warm weather we get. Now, as most of us are running to the nearest mall or shopping destination to get outfitted in summer wear, we must not forget about our outdoor spaces. Yes, that's right -- whether you live in a small condo or large mansion, you must think about your outdoor spaces. Well, what's better than warm, long sunny days? Entertaining and hosting fabulous parties outdoors.

One does not need to break the bank in order to create chic outdoor spaces. These great pieces from President's Choice Home Collection are so affordable (and can also be used indoors). Also, think outdoor living like you would your interior. Introduce texture and patterns through accessories, and keep large pieces of furniture fairly neutral so that you can change up the look any time you want, or with every party.

If in a small space, be sure to think about scale and proportion. You don't want large, bulky pieces to take up your whole balcony. Cute bistro sets will do the trick. Be bright in your colour choices and create some drama to amp up your small space. If you are lucky enough to have a large yard, think about creating zones for lounging and dining. Having two distinct areas will go a long way in helping you utilize your outdoor space more efficiently.

Dishes and accessories also can be fabulous for the outdoors. These great melamine dishes from President's Choice Home Collection are perfect. They are durable, long-lasting and provide the perfect hit of colour and pattern to make any outdoor party that much more stylish. o

President's **Choice** Home Collection available at Loblaws and Superstore

The Darker Side Of Summer

Photographed by Wilkosz + Way
Art Direction by Len Mastaler
Styling by BR Pirri

Ponte de Roma
Grey hooded button up cardigan by: Jalu
Grey/black city scene scarf by: H&M

Black virgin wool knit cardigan by: Jalu
Cotton Jersey/Bias overlap cotton voile Tank Top by: KaaDiki
Cotton/Poly drawstring pants by: KaaDiki
Vintage Leather Boots by: KaaDiki
Black socks - Model's own
Black fingerless gloves - Stylist's own

Black Cotton/Linen vest with Lambskin Leather ruffle back by: KaaDiki
Grey baggy virgin wool Brooklyn pant with faux leather insert by: Jalu
Black Metal Cross necklace by: H&M

Sheer cotton t-shirt by: Hot Gossip
Cotton/Linen blend vest with rib neckline by: KaaDiki
Cotton Jean Shorts by: KaaDiki
Distressed Leather shoes by: Steve Madden
Leather leg lace - Stylist's own

Ponte de Roma Grey Hooded Dress by: Jalu
Black Metal Cross necklace by: H&M
Leather tassel tie belt - Stylist's own

Model Fraser R: I Model Management
Stylist BR Pirri: I Model Artists Division
Hair and Makeup Kelly: I Model Artists Division
Art Direction Len Mastaler: I Model Artists Division
www.imodelmanagement.ca

Photographed exclusively
for OUTLOOKS Magazine
by Wilkosz + Way
www.wilkoszandway.com

Summer Staples

Some of our favourite looks for Summer 2011

Living in a country with such brief summers, chances are our seasonal outerwear hasn't worn out by the end of September. This is why it's key to make sure that you are investing properly in your summer wardrobe -- balancing between quality staples that will last from year to year and those on-trend pieces that you might love and leave in a few months.

This year, we're seeing some familiar friends that you may already have in your closet like aviator glasses, loafers and stripes and welcoming new trends like printed jackets, neons and bright whites. Whether you've got them or need them, here are some of our favourite looks for Summer 2011.

Bright white organic cotton collared shirts from H&M's Conscious Collection, $34.95

Banana Republic Monogram Floral Cotton Tie, $69.50.

Neon yellow Havaianas Men's flip flops from Brazil from Piperline.com, $22.00.

White organic cotton blend jacket from H&M's Conscious Collection, $ 39.95

Blue is everywhere this season. Aqua gingham drawstring trunks from Joe Fresh Style.

Subtle hints of neon green on these Diesel glasses.

David Yurman Palladium gold-plated aviator glasses.

Boss boat shoes, $350 from Harry Rosen.

Gant by Michael Bastian Jacket $598, Shirt $198, Jeans $270, Polo $168 from Harry Rosen.

White knit cardigan from Joe Fresh Style, $49.

Framed

Featuring: Mathieu Laca

Mathieu Laca is one of those artists whose work will make you stand up and take notice -- whether you want to or not.

Most folks look at his work and ask, "What on earth was this guy thinking?" And he is definitely a bold and daring artist who follows his own, perhaps controversial, vision. His work seems unexplainable and almost dreamlike.

"The unexplainable often creates strong esthetic emotions. This is why I make such a use of it in my works. With so much going on on the canvas, I'm often asked about the narratives of my paintings. Is there a predetermined story line? What's the message? I believe that dreams inform us and spare us at the same time. They're tricky! They speak of inner truths that, for some reason, we can't face directly. So they veil themselves, they wear masks, allowing us to tame them, to live with them without feeling threatened.

"I began to paint seriously at the age of 17. I even thought there was something appealing in a tragic Van Gogh-like destiny. Until very recently, I was completely immersed in the search for my voice. I wanted to find something, to discover new venues of expression, to develop a unique language. The rest was of no significance. I even once turned down a major show because the works I was supposed to present didn't correspond to where I wanted to go next. They were of my "old manner," so to speak. I didn't want to have success and be admired for something that didn't represent me fully.

"When I start to think about a painting, I always have a very strong feeling about it. The problem is that usually the idea is also very vague. What I do when I sketch is that I dissipate the smoke, I cut the surplus, I add to the dynamics of the composition, etc. To be perfectly clear, I discover the work as I go along. To be an artist, one has to be very curious, I believe. I always want to see where it's leading me! I can't wait -- that's why I do it over and over again. So there's really no predetermined story. Sometimes, the result is a shock. It has nothing to do with the initial jumping-off point. But something unexplainable endures -- this irrepressible feeling, this desire that reveals itself, but isn't given away.

"I want to make paintings that reveal to the viewer something unknown about himself. For that reason, I shake him up sometimes. I stay convinced that most people are sensitive and smart when art is presented to them in a true and honest way, without scholarly bullshit."

However, very clearly, his work is not for the faint of heart.

For more images and information, please visit

MathieuLaca.com

Original works are available though Patrick John

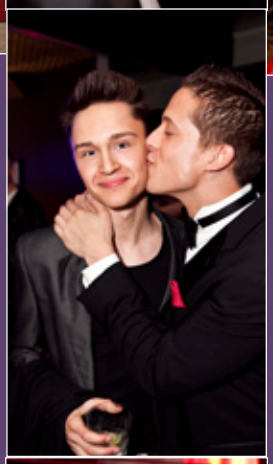
Mills Contemporary Fine Art Gallery in Ottawa.

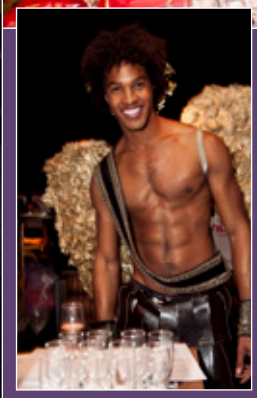
PatrickJohnMills.ca

TORONTO Out & about

IN Toronto 1st Anniversary Party and Outlooks Reception

may 5 at The Rosevelt Room





VANCOUVER Out & about

RECON dark party
april 8 at The PumpJack Pub

SLICK leather Dance
april 9 at WISE Hall

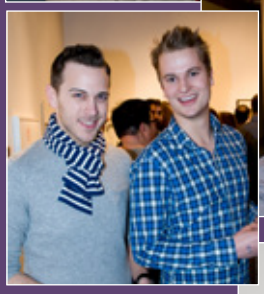
Winner of Vancouver's Top Gay Model
Todd Johnston

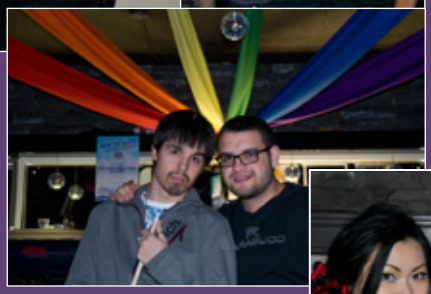
EDMONTON Out & about

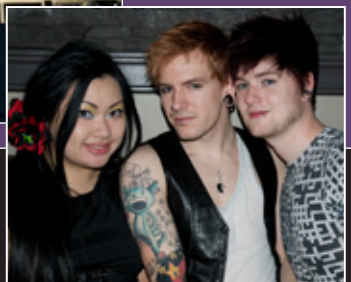
Iconika Party
at Junction

L53 Factory Party
at Latitude 53 Gallery

ON THE LIST!
at Flash







At 21, Matt is a fresh face to the modeling industry starting his career less than a year ago now. But it isn't as if he has just sat around waiting to get going, Matt has been a self starter since day one... and yes, a bit of a competitive one to boot.

As the middle child in his family, Matt seemed a natural for "personal" sports and excelled as a provincial gymnast for 11 years and has provincial swim titles to his credit as well.

At 13 Matt began to study dance and is an accomplished dancer and choreographer today

He grew up in Windsor, Ontario and now resides in Hamilton where, aside for modeling and dancing he is pursuing his other interests in acting and singing. What doesn't this handsome young man do?

On the lighter side, when not working Matt enjoys quiet times with his writing (a novel no less), and curling up in the evening to watch a good movie as he is a self proclaimed movie nut. Personally, I think he is simply exhausted from his day and just wants an excuse to cuddle.

JUNE Horoscope

Take advantage of National Coming Out month by harnessing the energy of a bunch of planets -- Mercury, Venus, Mars and the Sun -- in flirtatious Gemini. Your social quotient soars and your flair for flair escalates. Show your pearlies for the camera, you charmer you.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
Tie up all loose ends into one strong knot. Consolidate all your disparate projects and people, and focus on the basic and important things in life. You have too many things going on, and may be ignoring relationships that need a bit of balm. Relax and enjoy whom and what you have. Make your summer a summer to remember rather than to forget, gay Archer.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
Think strategically this June. Pink Caps need to survey their landscape and plan for their next move. An office party may provide a golden opportunity to connect with a co-worker. How that connection pans out is up to you. But let's just say that you can never have too many friends around the office -- especially one in HR who can glance at your personnel records...

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
June launches your own personal party season. Aqueerians need to see and be seen. Reach out. Form planning committees. Don't hang around the house and wait for a knock on the door. Find creative ways to express yourself and showcase your special attributes. Er, you do have some special attributes to showcase, don't you? If not, create some!

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
Your surroundings can be enhanced and improved this June. It may be too late for spring cleaning; but it is the perfect time for a summer total redo. Map out a manageable budget and shop for a new domestic look -- furniture, painting, remodeling or even renovation --or, when in doubt, a move to another abode. Perhaps one with a swimming pool...?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
Think of something totally outrageous to demand from others and guess what? You snag it. So draw up a list of desires, and see how far down the list you can go before you feel sated. Proud Rams are fortunate in that they never seem to become overwhelmed by an avalanche of goodies. However, it is even easier to manage it all when you share with others. Hint hint.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
You are feeling pretty good this June, and why not? Life is chugging along and you have found ways to lower your stress levels. Enjoy the resulting rewards of clean living. Queer Bulls find ways to surround themselves with all sorts of luxurious items from good food to good wine to good company. Is it possible that you will fall into a rut? Oh, let's hope so!

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Pink Twins are in the centreof the social swirl and can use June to cement current liaisons and forge new ones. The folks you meet now determine your long-term success. This means that you have to exert special energy to maneuver into inner circles of certain groups and charm your way into the star chambers of certain organizations. Rev up the pizazz machine.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Is there something stirring in your soul that compels you to do the best you can altruistically do? If the answer is yes, this is the time to get started on your path. Expand your charitable outreach, start some good works and try to make a positive difference in the world. It is never too late to gather in the good karma. The trick is in knowing where to look for it.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
Proud Lions are not the most patient of souls; but the last few months have taught you the value of careful planning and well-timed pacing. Well, now you can quicken the pace. Any long-term plans that have been stuck in neutral can finally be put into high gear now. Be prepared -- check your files and your tool box. Do you have them ready to go? Fire drill!!!

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
Queer Virgins need to be ripe and ready for any professional opportunity. You have done the hard work, and now it is time to pave your path to success. Be diplomatic and strategic. Opportunities will become apparent. But for those of you who have opted out of the corporate scene, it is also a great time to try something new and possibly profitable. I said possibly.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
Scratch your itchy feet with a last minute June jaunt. The world is ripe with possibilities just waiting for you to come and get 'em. Proud Libras can go in style, maybe even with an entourage. But plan your course carefully so that you make the best use of time and money. Create a few international scenes, and also see what is going on behind the scenes. Whoo hoo!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
There is no stopping you this June. Focus on whom you want, and go after them. Proud Scorps have a certain special something in their manner that exudes charisma and sex appeal. Your presence is demanded at all the hot parties, where you will cleverly cultivate a strong fan base. Make your mark on the dating scene. Ahem! Is that a skid mark I see?

(c) 2011 THE STARRY EYE, LLC., All Rights Reserved. For Entertainment Purposes Only. Can't get enough? Join the blog: **www.thestarryeye.typepad.com**.
Lichtenstein's blog **www.thestarryeye.typepad.com** covers everything new age. Her astrology book HerScopes; A Guide To Astrology For Lesbians is the best in tongue-in-cheek astrology.

Marketplace

You can reach over 148,000 GLBT consumers monthly through 600 local distribution points coast-to-coast as well as online!

Travel

MAKING VACATION DREAMS A REALITY!

Personalized in home or office travel planning services. Air, Adventure Vacations, Cruises, Resorts, Packages, Hotels, Golf Vacations.

Call Mike at (780) 417-5724
or Toll Free 1-866-336-9998

Travel Cruises and more.

WE ALSO DO GROUPS!

Resorts and B&Bs - USA

Palm Springs, California

Beautiful Mountains, Dry Heat, Hot Men.
Book online:
LaDolceVitaResort.com or 1-877-644-4111
Mention *OUTLOOKS* 10% discount
for first time guests.

Resorts and B&Bs - Mexico

PUERTO VALLARTA MEXICO

Boana-Torre Malibu / Condo Hotel, Amapas 325, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico.

Tel/fax: 011 52 (322) 222-6695,
tel:011 52 (322) 222-0999. www.boana.net
boana@pvnet.com.mx

One block from gay beach. Each unit has one bedroom, two bathrooms, kitchenette, living room, balcony, air-conditioning. Maid service. Gay Vallarta's largest pool. Office open daily 9am-5pm (CT).

Personal Services

BLINK SPA
Toronto

- Laser Hair Removal
- Waxing
- Skin Care
- RMT Massage

blinkspa.ca 416.223.9993

Weddings & Marriages
Immediate or by Appointment
All vows & paper work included
Witness available

• Religion Free • Standard & Specialized Ceremonies
• Cross Cultural • Same Sex GLBT

Rork Hilford MC
Marriage Commissioner for Alberta
AKA (Justice of the Peace - JP) Marriage Officiant
Commissioner for Oaths

hilford@shaw.ca • 403-246-4134

MUSCLE MECHANIC
THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE THERAPY
John 403.803.1594

A.S.K. Calgary

Weekly A.S.K. Meet & Greet / Bonasera Pizza & Sports Bar
1204 Edmonton Trail NE, Calgary, AB

More Info at 403-398-9968
albertasocietyforkink@hotmail.com

Services

SHIFT
works with adults
in the sex trade.

We provide services
for both those
who do not want to exit
and those who do.

SHIFT provides:
FREE safer sex supplies,
non-judgmental
counseling,
and more.

403-237-8171

Advertising Rates

Colour or B&W Display Ad

1 column $80
2 column vert. $115
2 column horiz. $140

Line Rate Ads

$20 per headline
- 25 letter max
and $2 per word,
10 word minimum

Multiple Insertion discounts

3 month 5%
6 month 10%
12 month 15%

Announcements

Wisdom 11:24

"You love everything that exists and hate nothing that you have made."

God loves you and created you gay.

www.createdgay.com

Entertainment

Different Strokes Swim Club:

A very friendly and supportive masters swim club for beginner to advanced swimmers. We work hard at swimming, but we don't neglect the fun!

Come out and join us!

Check practice times and location info at
www.differentstrokescalgary.org

Immigration Link

Get Permanent Residence for you and your partner via a Skilled Worker, Self Employed, Investor or Canadian Experience application.

For More info contact me
Peter@gayimmigration.ca
416-922-9495 or 1-888-922-9495
Peter Bernier CCIC

CALL 1-416-792-2400 to Advertise

Tell your doctor if simplified HIV treatments are important to you.
Living with HIV is complicated. While there is no cure, there are simplified treatment options.
How can your treatment be simplified? It's okay to ask your doctor.
Together, you can find the best treatment for you.
www.1withU.ca
1WITH®
U
1withU® is a registered trademark
of a research pharmaceutical company.